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Private eyes suspected in wiretappings remanded for another week

RAINE MARCUS

YAA'ACOV TSUR AND Rafi Friedman, the private investigators suspected for allegedly tapping the phones, cellular phones and fax machines of Yehudit Gurevitz and her senior employees, Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

Magistrate's Court Judge Omer Kohn, chief editor of the newspaper, sent a letter to the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday ordering that their phones had also been tapped.

On Sunday, private investigators and former police officer Rafi Friedman was questioned by detectives, who suspect him of directing their investigation by concealing evidence.

Police alleged that Friedman, who was in Tel Aviv and Friedman's office at the time of the arrest, was in possession of cars used in illegal wiretapping. He was released Sunday night.

Police said in court yesterday that they expect to question more potential suspects. They are also exploring the possibility that the Bezak employees cooperated with Friedman and Tsur.

According to a private investigator, such cooperation is necessary to tap faxes, which is not legal. Fax tappers need a computer equipped with a program to decipher fax signals, and the job requires special skills.

Police say they have contacts between Yehudit Gurevitz and Tsur's investigation company and car rental companies, and are presently searching for several suspects believed to have been used in wiretapping.

Yehudit Gurevitz denies all connections to the case, but police suspect he is involved in three cases of wiretapping but still maintains his innocence.

The pair's lawyer, Moti Kohn, said that police are trying to pressure his clients by keeping them in custody, and that there is no danger they will disrupt proceedings placed under house arrest.

He is still advising his clients to accept arrest, and police are still trying to discover who ordered the tapping.

It is also possible that the district attorney is trying to use the case to pressure potential witnesses, said one police officer.

Yehudit Gurevitz argued in court that a private investigator has no power to arrest a person without a warrant.

IDF cracks down on Hamas activists Six Fatah exiles return

JON IMMANUEL

IN a clear bid to stem the current wave of terrorist attacks against Israelis, the army arrested "more than 300" suspected Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists in pre-dawn raids throughout the territories yesterday, military sources said.

A few hours later, a group of Fatah fugitives, suspected of attacking Palestinians and Israelis between 1989 and 1991, returned to the Gaza Strip from exile in Arab countries.

The arrested Islamic activists appeared mostly to be in their 20s. Palestinian sources said. However, they also included some prominent older men, notably Sheikh Tayseer Tamimi, a Hebron religious court judge in his 40s, who organized a Friday march to the Ibrahim Mosque in the Machpelah Cave to protest its closure since the massacre.

Jamil Natshe, a school teacher, and Adnan Naswadeh, a doctor in his 50s, were also among several dozen said to have been arrested in the Hebron area. Both were among the 405 deported in 1992.

Several men were reported arrested in the Jenin area, where the suicide bombers who recently attacked buses in Afula and Hadera lived. An estimated 150 were captured in the Gaza Strip, sources there said.

Security sources said this week that arrests of suspected Hamas activists have averaged about 150 a month for some time.

Gaza sources suspected that the current wave of arrests was made possible by last week's capture of Abdul Karim Siam, a Hamas activist from Jabalya refugee camp, who has links to Izzadin Kassam, the terrorist wing of the movement. The following day, 15 more activists were arrested, and their interrogation may have revealed further information.

In contrast to the clampdown on Islamic activists, six Palestinians belonging to the once notorious Fatah Hawks, Black Panther, and Rafik Salami groups crossed from Egypt to Gaza. Prominent among them was Nassim Farah, 52, who led a group called "The Martyrs of Rishon LeZion" established after seven Rafiah and Khan Yunis laborers were shot down by Ami Popper in May 1990.

Farah, who fled in 1992 and lived in a Libyan camp for Fatah fugitives, received a hero's welcome. The return of the six and the Hamas arrests highlighted the different treatment accorded different Palestinian factions since September's Oslo accords.

In reports carried in the local Arabic press, Mahmoud Abu Marzouk, an engineer and highly respected Hamas activist in Jordan, suggested in an interview with the Syrian weekly *al-Sabeel*, that Hamas might end violence against Israel in return for a commitment to return to the 1967 borders and dismantle settlements.

Some Hamas ideologues have said Hamas would end attacks against Israelis if Israel returned to its pre-Six Day War borders. However, Marzouk added that there could be a peace agreement on this basis, something Hamas has always rejected.

Hamas: PLO and Hamas can cooperate, Page 2



FINAL FOUR ACTION - Alexander Volkov (left) of Panathinaikos Athens and Olympiakos Piraeus's Panayotis Fassoulas battle for a rebound in last night's all-Greek semifinal at Yad Eliyahu. Olympiakos won 77-72 and will face Joventut Badalona, 79-65 victors over Barcelona, in tomorrow night's final. (Full story, Page 12)

(Hannach Guttman)

Labor prepares to expel Ramon and his followers

SARAH HONIG

LABOR was preparing late last night to dispatch special delivery letters informing MKs Haim Ramon, Amir Peretz, and Shmuel Avital that their membership in the party has been discontinued.

This follows their formal submission of their independent list to the Histadrut elections last night. From that moment on, the party officially considered them defectors, as they are challenging the party's candidates.

They still have the formal right to appeal the decision, but it is doubtful they will, as they have no chance of winning because of the overwhelming sentiment against them in the party.

The three will not be able to rejoin Labor for 18 months, and they will be barred from running on any Labor list for a further six months.

Although the Labor establishment was brimming with vindictiveness against those it labels political traitors, there was considerable concern below the surface. The consensus was that had the Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin done a month ago what he did yesterday - force Aryeh Deri's national health insurance bill compromise on the Histadrut - the split might have been avoided and a crisis averted. Off the record, many party higher-ups criticized the manner in which Rabin handled the entire episode.

As things stand now, the feeling among many Labor insiders is that Ramon's assault on the Histadrut is only the first battle in a far more ambitious campaign he plans to wage against Labor. Should he cause Labor to lose its hegemony in the Histadrut, they think, he will seek to cement his alliance with Meretz in a broader new political front.

A loss for Ramon, it is said, will not bring him back to Labor either. The fight is expected to be so bitter that the grudges and resentments accumulated will not allow him to bury the hatchet. In such an eventuality, it is argued, Ramon will have no choice but to link his political fate with Meretz, a combination that has Labor very worried.

Rabin: IDF ideas on Golan not politically feasible

DAVID MAKOVSKY and ALON PINKAS

THE IDF prefers less of a withdrawal from the Golan Heights than is politically feasible, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly told the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee yesterday.

He also suggested that he favors deploying international peacekeepers that would trigger political intervention, instead of troops capable of retaliating militarily in case of a Syrian violation. In short, Rabin seems to oppose deploying US combat soldiers on the Golan.

Contrary to Rabin's statements about the IDF, however, several senior IDF officers say that full Golan withdrawal is likely. In a recent interview, Military Intelligence chief Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy hinted it was possible that a deal with Syria could follow the "Egyptian model," code words for full withdrawal.

According to Ha'aretz, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak privately told US officials that any deal with Syria would be based on full withdrawal. In a briefing for foreign journalists last year, his deputy, Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shahak, suggested that Israel could be safe without the Golan.

Senior officers are not the only ones hinting of full withdrawal. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres reportedly said privately that any deal with Syria would involve Israeli withdrawal to "10 meters from the Kinneret." But Bahira Bardugo, his spokeswoman, denied he ever said this.

Senior officers have also said they expect Syria will adhere to a security package including a demilitarized Golan, early warning stations, an international observer force, and possibly a crisis-prevention data center manned by Israeli and Syrian officers.

They insist, however, that any withdrawal be phased in over several years, and be accompanied by confidence-building measures. A large majority of the General Staff supports the principles of the government's policy towards Syria, senior officers said.

When asked about an accord with Syria, Rabin replied: "There is no debate that today's border is preferable to any point westward. However, the army would prefer [a line] further eastward than political reality permits," according to a participant authorized to brief reporters on his remarks.

He reiterated that Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran's report on Golan security did not make a policy recommendation on full withdrawal from the Golan, nor did a Foreign Ministry paper issued a couple weeks ago. Rabin denied reports that the Mossad had presented him with any study on the Golan.

He emphasized, however, that the government will make the decision, and the staff will only provide "data input."

On the issue of what sort of an international force he would want to see deployed, Rabin replied: "Today, there is UNDOF. Thus, there is the principle of an international presence. In general, when it comes to a presence, it is a political, rather than a military barrier" to attack.

When asked by Binyamin Netanyahu (Likud) about requirements for retaining early warning at Tel Aviv, sources cite Rabin as saying: "In general, I prefer an Israeli early-warning system."

It might be noted that Rabin's only recorded reference to early warning systems on the Golan was when he was asked by Israeli reporters in Washington more than a year ago if Israel could yield Mt. Hermon, the "eyes of the country," he replied: "They also said Um Hasshiba was the eyes of the country. The country has many eyes." Um Hasshiba was Israel's main warning station in Sinai.

Palestinians say talks in crisis over jurisdiction, prisoner release

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

THE Cairo talks on Palestinian self-rule ran into a crisis yesterday over the scope of Palestinian jurisdiction in Gaza and Jericho, chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'ath said.

The talks in Cairo were also deadlocked on an amnesty for Palestinian prisoners and a map outlining areas of Israeli control in the Gaza Strip, sources close to the talks said.

Sha'ath, asked if there was a crisis over Palestinian jurisdiction, said: "Yes, there is."

"A major problem remains to be solved...it is the problem of jurisdiction...It must be solved if there is any seriousness to finish these negotiations on time," he told reporters.

Sha'ath complained that Israel, in demanding legal authority over Israelis and foreigners inside future Palestinian areas, was ignoring the Declaration of Principles signed by the two sides last September.

"When we say that there is Palestinian jurisdiction in Gaza and Jericho, this means that Palestinian law is the one that prevails," he said.

Sha'ath urged that the rules for law and courts in Gaza and Jericho should follow international practices.

"If a person commits a crime in London, even if he is Belgian or French, he is tried in London," he said. "Therefore, it has to be the same with us."

The PLO negotiator also complained about Israel's arrest yesterday of about 400 Palestinians opposed to the peace talks, saying the last days of negotiations should not be "used for more suffering and detaining and more torturing."

S. African leaders break impasse

PRETORIA (Reuters) - South Africa's key black and white leaders yesterday broke an impasse threatening to plunge its historic elections into violence by finding a last minute way to bring the Zulu-led Inkatha party into the poll.

The deal, agreed seven days before the all-race elections, draws Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthe into the mainstream by satisfying the demands of traditional leaders of the country's 8.5 million Zulus.

His boycott of the April 26-28 polls to end 350 years of white domination had threatened a new wave of political violence.

Full story, Page 5

Ben-Yair: Israeli law does not apply to Jews in territories

ISRAELI law, including basic laws, does not apply to settlers in the territories, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair said yesterday.

Speaking to the Jerusalem Bar Association, Ben-Yair addressed several legal issues that have emerged following the administrative detention of several Kach and Kahane Chai activists.

He explained that Israelis and others within sovereign Israel can be held in administrative detention under the Emergency Regulations Law (Arrests). Residents of the territories are detained under emergency regulations instituted by the territories' military commanders in 1988.

He rejected the argument that Jewish residents of the territories could not be detained under military regulations, saying those orders apply to every person in the areas who threatens state security, and there is no exception made for Israeli citizens.

The law regarding administrative detention within the Green Line, he said, "also applies to any person who lives within the borders of the State of Israel and threatens its security or public order. The Knesset meant to deal with people who live inside the State of Israel, not outside it. Israeli law, therefore, does not apply in the administered territories, unless the Knesset expressly states this."

As a result, he added, basic laws and basic freedoms, such as freedom of expression, organization, and demonstration, do not apply to the same degree in the territories as they do in sovereign Israel. If they did, "it would be very doubtful this would dovetail with the ability to maintain law and order in the territories," he said.

He reiterated that whatever regulations do prevail apply equally to Jews and Arabs.

"A person threatening state security, whether he is an Arab or a Jew, threatens state security in the same measure. The rifle of one is no purer than the rifle of the other: both can and do kill," he said.

He added, however, that with regard to criminal violations, particularly security violations, a degree of "parallel" authority applies to settlers, with both Israeli and military law applicable, which is why settlers who commit crimes are tried in Israeli courts.

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza reacted angrily to Ben-Yair's equating the weapons held by Jews with the weapons held by Arabs, with a spokesman saying that comparing weapons held by Jews for self-defense to those used by terrorists to kill Jews, is "not acceptable, to put it mildly."

The spokesman said the council had demanded to meet with Ben-Yair so he could clarify his statements. (Item)

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Crisis doesn't damper success of water talks

ALTHOUGH hailed as the most successful multilateral meetings so far, the water talks closed in Oman last night with a mini-crisis.

The cause of the problem, however, had nothing to do with water disputes. It was the result of the refusal by the Jordanian delegate, Ali Gazaawi, to accept any point on the list of conclusions in the closing session. His refusal was a protest against the US-sponsored blockade on the Gulf of Akaba, aimed at stopping arms from reaching Iraq.

After last-minute negotiations, it was decided that the conclusions would be read without asking for a vote, and Gazaawi said his government would write to the American chairman of the water talks, John Herbst, to express its stand.

"Blowing up the talks would have been cutting off their noses to spite their faces," said Avraham Katz-Oz, who chaired the Israeli delegation to the talks.

"Basically, if they had not agreed to any of the projects decided upon in Oman, they would not have reaped any of the bene-

LIAT COLLINS

MUSCAT, OMAN

fits later on."

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, accompanying the delegation, called the crisis "a storm in a teacup," noting that all the projects would have gone ahead no matter how the Jordanians had acted.

The projects agreed upon at the talks include a regional seawater desalination research plant to be based in Oman, a pilot scheme for checking water loss in small municipal networks, water management training, a regional hydrological data bank and a project on wastewater reuse.

Most upset by the stalling tactics was the Palestinian delegation, led by Dr. Riyad Khouri, which wanted to return from the talks with concrete achievements. Their main success, nearly torpedoed by the Jordanians, was their announcement that they would establish their own water authority

in accordance with the Declaration of Principles.

After the dispute was settled, Khouri said, "I think we are satisfied with the outcome of the talks because we can start something on the ground now. We have our own water authority and we have to start [work] as we have to improve the water situation and control it."

The water authority is considered essential by the experts gathered here who are concerned about unsupervised well-drilling and water quality control after Israel leaves Gaza. The Palestinians are also expected to benefit from many of the projects formulated at the talks.

The Omanis were also disturbed by the last-minute hitch that threatened to mar the success of the talks, which had put them at the center of regional attention.

Beilin noted that Israelis would visit Oman in the very near future to work on the desalination research project, and said a reciprocal visit to Israel is expected by Omanis interested in studying the use of solar energy in desalination.

EU grants \$11.3m. for Palestinian police force

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The EU yesterday granted \$11.3 million towards the creation of a Palestinian police force in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The grant was approved at an EU foreign ministers meeting.

It is separate from financial and other contributions each of the 12 EU states may make from their own budgets.

British officials said their government has already offered riot equipment.

Germany said it planned to provide at least DM 300,000 (\$353,000) a year to the Palestinian police force that is to keep order in the autonomous areas.

In a statement, the EU ministers said they were ready to "contribute actively and urgently to the creation of a Palestinian police force."

They also said they were ready to provide temporary peacekeeping troops for the territories.

Shahal grants furloughs to three activists

RAINE MARCUS

FURLOUGHs for Kach activists Baruch Marzel and Shmuel Ben-Yishai, currently in administrative detention, and for Kessar Mendes, serving a 21-month prison sentence for endangering life and assaulting a police officer, were authorized by Police Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday.

Marzel is due to be released for the birth of his son at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital this morning, and will be cuffed and chained and accompanied by a Prison Services guard.

A heavily guarded Ben-Yishai was released for the birth of his son in Kiryat Arba yesterday. His son was born prematurely a month ago, and Ben-Yishai was returned to Hasharon Prison immediately after the birth.

Mendes will be allowed to attend a ceremony celebrating the birth of his daughter tomorrow.

The three stopped their hunger strike after they received the news that Shahal had permitted the furloughs.

Three other activists are still on hunger strike. According to Prison Service regulations, 48 hours after a prisoner declares a hunger strike, he is prevented from receiving privileges, such as visits, and he is segregated from other prisoners.

Settlement leaders meet Mofaz today

BILL HUTMAN

SETTLEMENT leaders, enraged at the government and army for ignoring their security needs, are to meet today in Beit El with Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria.

Aaron Domb, spokesman for the Council of Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, said settlement leaders would present Mofaz with a list of demands for increased security for settlers. This week, council leaders criticized the army for failing to respond to an upsurge of rock and firebomb attacks on settlers in the territories.

Domb said it took the army over three hours yesterday to send a sapper to check out a suspicious object along the Hebron-Jerusalem road.

Traffic was halted for the entire time along the road, used by many settlers commuting to the capital, according to Domb.

The army had no immediate reaction.

Ariel Mayor Ron Nahman, meanwhile, complained that army roadblocks were holding up Jewish residents commuting from Samaria to the coastal area. The army, however, maintained that the roadblocks were necessary to enforce the closure and help prevent terror attacks, Israel Radio reported.

Rabin to meet Yeltsin in Moscow

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin will pay a four-day visit to Russia beginning on Sunday.

He will be hosted by his counterpart, Victor Chernomyrdin, and will meet with President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, and other senior leaders.

A key objective of the trip is to probe the new Soviet assertiveness in the Middle East, and if it is designed to complicate US policy in the region.

Israel is also concerned about Russia's plans to sell arms to Syria.

During his three days in Moscow and one day in St. Petersburg, Rabin will seek to bolster Jewish immigration.

He will not only meet with departing immigrants, but is tentatively scheduled to return home with them.

Israeli entertainers, including the IDF symphony, will attend a gala event sponsored by the Moscow Jewish community. Rabin will also attend the Bolshoi Ballet.

New Channel 2 beats Channel 1
More people watched Independence Day programs on the New Channel 2 than on Channel 1, according to a Gallup-Israel survey.

Dan Shilon's talk show, featuring Prime Minister Rabin among the celebrity guests, had the highest rating of the evening, with a 62 percent share of viewers who watched television that night. Researchers based their findings on a survey of 6,425 Jewish households.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today, 1 p.m., at the YMCA, King David Street. Yigal Antebbi, director of the southern and eastern African countries division of the Foreign Ministry, will speak on his recent visit to those countries.

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Ronnie Marcus and family

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Kibbutz Tzora

The funeral took place yesterday.
Prayers at the Marcus family at Kibbutz Tzora.

Husseini to gov't: Stop meddling with PLO-Hamas ties

EVELYN GORDON

ISRAEL has no right to demand that the PLO not cooperate with Hamas, according to a press release put out by Faisal Husseini on Monday.

The release was distributed yesterday by Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who said it ought to constitute grounds for canceling the agreement with the PLO.

"Orient House expresses its concern and dismay at recent Israeli statements and political maneuvers, which are aimed at driving a wedge between various

segments of the Palestinian people," said the release, whose letterhead states it is from "the office of Faisal Husseini."

"Israeli protests and warnings about coordination between Palestinians who support and oppose the peace process, and attempts to discriminate against Palestinian prisoners and setting pre-conditions for their release are totally unacceptable to the Palestinians, and are viewed as an Israeli meddling in Palestinian

internal affairs..."

"The PLO... has the absolute right to strengthen and consolidate relations and ties between the various segments of the Palestinian people, regardless of their political or religious affiliations..."

"The Israelis are making a big mistake if they believe that they signed the agreement with one faction without the others. Real peace will not be realized without Palestinian national unity, and our

NEWS IN BRIEF

IDF wounds 5 stonethrowers

At least five youths were wounded, two seriously, by army gunfire in disturbances in the Kalandia refugee camp, just north of Jerusalem, yesterday evening. The youths were part of a memorial march for a camp resident killed by soldiers several days ago, and began throwing rocks and firebombs at soldiers, who opened fire.

Steamroller falls off truck

Four people were injured yesterday when a steamroller fell off a truck and landed on a car, north of Mitzpe Ramon.

The car was traveling behind the truck carrying two steamrollers, one of which fell on it, injuring all four passengers. Two were lightly injured and the other two were taken by helicopter to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital.

'Do more for Righteous Gentiles'

Retired Supreme Court Justice Moshe Bejski, one of the 1,200 Jews saved by Oscar Schindler, said yesterday that Israel and world Jewry are not doing enough to support needy, elderly Righteous Gentiles.

He confirmed the essential truth of Steven Spielberg's film about Schindler, although "no film can portray the whole truth." He stressed the film's special importance in view of the continuing popularity of Holocaust deniers.

He was speaking to an overflow audience at the 11th annual Israel Goldstein Holocaust Lecture at the Center for Conservative Judaism in Jerusalem.

Helping foreign firms with kashrut

Forty teams of kosher butchers and kashrut supervisors from the Ministry of Religious Affairs will be dispatched by the Chief Rabbinate to various points abroad by the end of the month.

Since the passage of the law privatizing the import of meat, Rabbi Moshe Nahshoni, head of the rabbinic's kashrut department, said there has been a tremendous increase in the number of requests for teams to check the kashrut of foreign slaughterhouses, particularly from Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Ireland, and the US.

Nazareth to receive face-lift

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram officially launched the "Nazareth 2,000" project yesterday, which is aimed at sprucing up the city for the anticipated arrival of thousands of tourists to celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus's birth.

Under the plan, Nazareth's market, hotels, restaurants, and other tourist services are to be refurbished, Baram said. The plan will cost millions of dollars; the government will provide much of the funding but the city will also have to raise money on its own.

Tunisia accepts Israeli delegation

The Tunisian government has granted visas to a delegation representing self-employed Israelis, allowing them to participate in an international gathering of the free professions opening tomorrow in Tunis. Eldad Bookspan, president of the Office of the Organizations of the Self-Employed, and four other group leaders are traveling as an official Israeli delegation.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Lotto draw, the winning numbers were 2, 5, 14, 30, 33, and 39, and the additional number was 6.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the Jack of spades, the king of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the eight of clubs.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat embrace during a meeting in the Kremlin yesterday. (AP)

Arafat tells Yeltsin to be more active in peace process

MOSCOW (AP) — Yasser Arafat urged Russia yesterday to take a more active role in the Middle East peace process and help persuade Israel to completely withdraw from Gaza and Jericho.

The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization arrived on a three-day official visit Monday night and met yesterday with President Boris Yeltsin, State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, as well as Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II.

"Russia is trying to support you politically, especially now, after the PLO negotiations with Israel have started," Yeltsin said after meeting Arafat in the Grand Kremlin Palace.

Speaking to reporters after

meeting with Kozyrev, Arafat said he expressed concern about Israel's failure to comply with a scheduled withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

"We discussed Israeli delays and maneuvers on the issue," Arafat said. "That allows those forces which are against the peace process to step up their efforts to impede establishing peace."

Yeltsin told Arafat that Russia understands the "PLO's claims against Israel." He said that yesterday's meeting with Arafat would help speed up the negotiation process. Yeltsin also said he had invited Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to visit Moscow next week to ensure the continuity of the talks.

Yeltsin said that Middle East peace was one of Russia's top strategic priorities. But Arafat's long absence from Moscow, where he used to be a regular visitor, illustrated the Kremlin's isolation from the US-brokered peace process.

In an interview with a Tunisian newspaper published yesterday, Arafat predicted that the PLO and Israel would reach an accord to implement self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho this week.

Al-Rai Al-Amm also quoted him as saying that Israel had allowed the deployment of a 9,000-strong Palestinian police force, drawn from former PLO gunmen currently based in several Arab countries.

efforts to realize this unity go hand in hand with our quest for just peace."

Netanyahu charged that if Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was serious when he said Israel would not tolerate PLO-Hamas cooperation, this release should persuade him to annul the Oslo agreement.

"Rabin's turning a blind eye to Faisal Husseini's words proves that his threat to cancel the Oslo agreement on account of cooperation between the PLO and Hamas was an empty one," he said.

Six week closure would cost economy NIS 900m.

EVELYN GORDON

THE economic damage caused by the closure of the territories, if it continues for four to six weeks, will be some NIS 900 million, the Bank of Israel told the Knesset economics committee yesterday.

Dr. Rafi Melnick, deputy director of the central bank's research division, also warned that the closure could have serious inflationary effects for two reasons.

The slowdown in the construction industry will raise housing prices, and there will be upward pressure on wages as workers from the territories are replaced with more-expensive Israelis.

Yossi Snir, director-general of the Industry and Trade Ministry, told the committee that unlike construction and agriculture, industry has generally not been hard-hit by the closure, since less than one percent of industrial workers come from the territories.

Small businesses, he said, are an exception, since the absence of one or two skilled workers can paralyze the entire plant.

Although foreign workers could solve the problem in the medium to long term, he added, they are not a short-term solution, since it takes months to train them properly.

In any case, the government has not authorized foreign workers for industry, he noted.

Arye Levy, managing director of Triumph International, and Ra'anan Sobel, managing director of Argaman, described the plight of companies hurt by the closure.

Both said their firms are in danger of losing foreign contracts that took years to obtain, because the absence of their Palestinian workers has made it impossible for them to maintain production schedules.

They requested that exceptions be made to the closure for long-time industrial employees, who are a very low security risk. Sobel pointed out that most terror activity has been committed by construction and agricultural workers, rather than industrial workers.

The committee generally supported this suggestion.

Both the executives and the MKs said that one of the worst problems is the uncertainty regarding how long the closure will last, which makes it difficult to plan properly.

"We need a clear policy so that we know what to do," said Levy.

Amos Baram, director-general of the Contractors Association, said that between closures and strikes, the average Palestinian in the building industry works only 162 days a year.

The only long-term solution to this problem, Baram said, is to train Israeli workers. However, most of the unemployed are not suited for construction work, so greater efforts must be made to attract newly demobilized soldiers, he said.

He believed foreign workers to be a good temporary solution. About 5,000 will be arriving next week, he said, and another 10,000 within six to eight weeks, primarily from Romania, Thailand, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Baram said that losses due to the closure in his sector totaled some NIS 600m. a month.

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Thursday

April 28

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Tour guide - Geographer Edna Zamonsky NIS 145

Wednesday

May 4

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مكتبة النجف

Six week closure would cost economy NIS 900m

EVELYN GORDON

THE economic damage caused by the closure of the territories will be some NIS 900 million, the Bank of Israel told yesterday.

Dr. Rafi Metelick, deputy director of the central bank's research department, said that the closure could have serious effects on the economy.

The slowdown in the economy will raise the price of goods and services, and there will be upward pressure on wages. Workers from the territories will be replaced with more expensive Israelis.

Yossi Katz, director-general of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, said the committee that is studying the economic damage caused by the closure is not a body that will be dissolved. It is a permanent body that will continue to study the damage and make recommendations.

Small business owners, who are not covered by the closure, are also concerned. They are worried that the closure will lead to a loss of customers and a decline in sales.

In any case, the government is not planning to open the territories. It is committed to the peace process and the Oslo Accords.

'Consider psychological damage in sentencing sex offenders'

EVELYN GORDON

COURTS will have to take into account the psychological damage to the victim when sentencing sex offenders, the Knesset law committee decided yesterday.

The committee was debating several bills aimed at making it easier to obtain convictions and stiffer sentences for sexual crimes. One bill, proposed by Yossi Katz and Yael Dayan (Labor), would enable the victim to testify with the accused out of the room, if she found it too traumatic to face her attacker. To protect the accused's rights, however, he would be able to watch the testimony on closed-circuit TV and pose questions via his lawyer.

Another bill, proposed by law committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz), would require sexual crimes to be tried before three judges, thereby making stiffer sentencing more likely, and would stipulate minimum sentences for such crimes.

Yesterday, the committee approved a provision whereby the government's psychological testing service will prepare a report on the psychological damage suffered by the victim, unless the victim objects. The court will then have to take this report into account during sentencing.

The committee also yesterday began discussing extending the statute of limitations for sexual crimes.

Currently, charges must be filed within five years of when the crime was committed for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies. However, there are several proposals before the committee to extend this time limit to 10-20 years, and to start it from the victim's 18th birthday rather than the date of the offense if the victim is a minor.

MK Avraham Ravitz (UTJ) explained that these proposals are based on studies showing that victims of sexual crimes are often reluctant to talk about it until their own children start growing up.



Foreign Minister Shimon Peres meets with Yona and Miriam Baumel yesterday outside the Prime Minister's Office. The Baumels have begun a hunger strike to demand that the government press the PLO for information on their son Zacharia. Peres said he would bring up the issue of the missing soldiers with PLO leader Yasser Arafat during their scheduled meeting Friday in Bucharest. (Efraim Kishitok)

Immigration rates decline in 1st quarter

BATSHEVA TSUR

NOT only were there fewer immigrants in the first quarter of 1994, but the percentage of academics among them decreased, Jewish Agency Aliya Department head Uri Gordon said yesterday.

"The total number of immigrants from the former Soviet Union was smaller than at any other comparable period since the wave of aliyah began in 1989," Gordon told members of the Knesset's aliyah and absorption committee. "This is not only the result of absorption difficulties in Israel, but of the expectations of getting rich in the CIS."

Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman (Labor) called on the cabinet to hold a special session to discuss the 15% drop in aliyah this year. Only 16,695 immigrants arrived in the quarter, compared to 19,566 in the same quarter last year. He said it would be possible to achieve the government's main objectives — peace and security — only by strengthening the Jewish majority in the country.

"The government must change its policy with regard to funding absorption, and immediately begin building public housing and low-rental housing for immigrants," Zissman said.

"What is the government doing with the loan guarantees it received?" asked Yuli Edelstein of the Zionist Forum, who attended the meeting. "We haven't heard about one agora being spent on creating job opportunities for olim or building public housing for them."

MK Yosef Ba-Gad (Moadet) called for the setting up of a commission of inquiry.

MK Ephraim Gur (Likud) said he had been in Russia last week and had heard that Jews are not planning to make aliyah because of poor absorption conditions.

Meanwhile, more than 5,000 Jews from the CIS are expected to emigrate to Germany this year, despite growing antisemitism in that country. Acting Jewish Agency Chairman Yehiel Leket told the World Zionist Executive in Jerusalem that the agency needs to increase its activities in Germany. He said that since 1989, 13,000 former Soviet Jews have gone to Germany, swelling the Jewish community there to 50,000.

The Absorption Ministry sponsored a job fair for immigrants in Beersheba yesterday that attracted around 600 olim living in the Negev. Some 480 positions were on offer.

More police changes announced

BILL HUTMAN

THE shake-up in the police hierarchy sparked by Inspector-General Rafi Peled's resignation apparently ended yesterday evening, as Police Minister Moshe Shahal announced his choices for four top posts.

In less than two weeks, Cmdr. Arye Amit, 43, will officially become Jerusalem's new police chief, and Dept. Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonishky, 47, will be promoted to commander and head of the Central District. Shahal announced.

Aharonishky is replacing Cmdr. Assaf Hefetz, appointed on Sunday to be the next inspector-general. Amit is taking the place of Cmdr. Yehuda Wilk, who resigned over Hefetz's appointment.

Shahal also appointed Cmdr. Danny Brinker, 43, to replace Amit as Operations Division head, and Yisrael Sadan, 43, to replace Brinker as the minister's senior police adviser.

The appointments in general did not come as a surprise, although Manpower Division head Yair Yitzhaki, considered one of the police's best young officers, was not promoted as expected.

Shahal said in a statement that he tried to make the appointments as quickly as possible, so police could put the changes created by Peled's resignation behind them.

Peled's resignation, as well as all the new appointments, go into effect on May 1.

Israeli Arab women lower fertility rate

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Israeli Arab woman — more urbanized and educated than her mother or grandmother — has lowered her fertility rate to about three children, only a little more than her Jewish counterpart.

This phenomenon was analyzed yesterday by gynecologist Dr. Ahmed Tibi, at a conference of the European Society for Reproduction and Embryology in Jerusalem.

Tibi delivered a paper he prepared jointly with Prof. Joseph Schenker, head of gynecology at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem.

Schenker, in his own lecture, said that Palestinian women in Gaza and (slightly less so) Judea and Samaria have among the highest birth rates in the world, with eight or nine children each.

While Israel's improved health care in the territories has reduced the infant mortality rate, he said, "during all the years of Israeli control, nothing has been done to reduce the birth rate."

Tibi said that the lower fertility rate of Israeli Arab women is due to the reduced educational gap between her and her husband. She makes more decisions, including whether to use contraceptives, and is more likely to go to a job away from home than to do agricultural work in a nearby field.

Israeli Arab women, both Moslems and Christians, tend to use the birth control pill and (the much less effective) coitus interruptus, and, to a lesser degree, the intrauterine device, he added.

Schenker said he doubted Palestinians have more babies for strictly political reasons, but added that "closures — when husbands are home and have nothing else to do — tend to produce more babies."

New ultrasound technique lowers number of bypass operations

JUDY SIEGEL

JERUSALEM doctors are now using ultrasound inside the arteries of the heart to insert a supportive mesh ring that holds the vessels open after catheterization.

The unusual technique — available in only a handful of centers around the world — will make many open-heart bypass operations unnecessary.

The technique of intravascular ultrasound was recently introduced at Shaare Zedek Hospital by Dr. Yoram Almagor, the new head of coronary catheterization, who studied it at one of the world's leading catheterization centers in Milan.

About five percent of patients who undergo catheterization and balloon therapy (angioplasty) to clear coronary arteries clogged with fatty plaque have to be rushed to the operating room for emergency surgery, because the weakened sides of the vessels collapse and the blood cannot pass through.

Stents — stainless steel mesh supports inserted by the catheter — can hold the vessels open permanently. But unless they are inserted properly and opened to the correct size, they can fail.

Using ultrasound, the catheterization expert can insert the stent while watching a three-dimensional picture of exactly what is occurring inside the vessel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Weizman to host talks with Diaspora leaders**
President Ezer Weizman is planning to convene a dialogue between Israeli leaders and Diaspora leaders and intellectuals to discuss Diaspora Jewry's ties with Israel and Jewish continuity. The two-day meeting will open at Beit Hanassi on June 22.
- Rare jewelry collection to be sold**
The most expensive collection of jewelry ever to be auctioned off here goes on sale tomorrow at the Ben-Ami gallery in Tel Aviv. The collection, estimated to be worth NIS 5 million, consists mostly of art deco and art nouveau designs, along with pieces from the 18th century.
- Heated c'tee debate on security**
Government and opposition MKs exchanged sharp accusations over the security situation during a heated meeting of the Knesset interior committee yesterday. Committee chairman Yehoshua Matza (Likud) called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to give up his defense ministry post, on grounds he was failing at the job. Police Minister Moshe Shahal responded that the present government's commitment to security surpasses that of any government in Israel.
- Flour prices down, beer up**
The price of flour goes down 6% today, while that of beer goes up 5.4%, the Ministry of Industry and Trade announced yesterday.
- Dark wheat flour will now cost NIS 1.35 a liter; white flour, NIS 1.55; and semolina, NIS 1.60. Nesher beer will now cost NIS 1.20; malt beer, NIS 1.20; and Goldstar, NIS 1.80.**
- MDA hosts Red Cross officials**
The visit of two British Red Cross officials which began yesterday is regarded by Magen David Adom as "another step in the breakthrough towards recognition of MDA."
- The president of the British Red Cross, the Countess Limerick, and the organization's director, Michael Whitlam, will spend three days here at the invitation of MDA President Prof. David Barzilai.**

Non-Jewish Ethiopian granted residency

SASHA SADAN

THE non-Jewish father of a Jewish family which came to Israel during Operation Solomon will be granted entry and residency here, after the family's case was taken to the High Court of Justice by Defense for Children International.

DCI said yesterday that months of work on the case and fruitless appeals to the authorities yielded results only after the petition was made to the court.

The man's wife was listed mistakenly as "divorced" in the population registry when she immigrated to Israel. But this week, the Justice Ministry agreed to change her marital status so her husband could be reunited here with her under the government's guidelines for family reunification.

Concerning a similar case included in the DCI petition, the Justice Ministry has agreed to give the woman a hearing.

DCI said appeals from the Ethiopian families to the Jewish Agency and the Interior Ministry were refused. The cases came to its attention through its ombudsman for Ethiopian children, Mulatu Dessie, who learned about the families through a social worker.

The Interior Ministry was unavailable for comment.

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Serbs resume shelling of Gorazde; UN chief seeks more airstrikes

BOSNIAN Serb forces besieging Gorazde terrorised thousands of Muslim inhabitants and refugees yesterday with renewed shelling and machinegun fire in the town.

The onslaught on the eastern enclave, a United Nations-declared "safe area", prompted UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to call for a wider mandate to use NATO air strikes against the Bosnian Serb army.

Russia warned Bosnia's dominant Serbs not to "test the patience of the world community". UN officials in Sarajevo reported intermittent shells crashing into the eastern Bosnian town of Gorazde and the occasional rattle of machinegun and sniper fire.

"After a relatively quiet morning, shelling started again with very loud impacts outside our building," Kris Janowski of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told reporters in the Bosnian capital.

"First light revealed a scene of desolation with debris covering the streets around our building," he said.

UNHCR spokeswoman Sylvana Foa quoted reports from staff in Gorazde as saying the Bosnian Serbs seemed to be deliberately shelling civilian targets.

"Certainly the reports that we are getting from Gorazde talk

GILES ELGOOD
SARAJEVO

about more human misery and more civilian casualties than anything we've ever had (from Bosnia)," Foa said in Geneva.

In a further escalation of tension, Bosnian Serbs seized control of 18 anti-aircraft guns from under UN control near Sarajevo. "They have removed 18 anti-aircraft weapons," UN Protection Force spokesman Major Dacre Holloway told Reuters.

Four shells struck Gorazde hospital yesterday and 25 others pounded an area nearby, Janowski said. The building being used by UNHCR staff in Gorazde took a direct hit on Monday, but no one appeared to have been hurt.

About 30,000 refugees from villages around Gorazde have flooded into the town since Bosnian Serb troops launched their offensive 20 days ago, swelling the population to around 65,000.

UNPROFOR's main spokesman in Sarajevo, Major Rob Annink, said the number of desperate refugees seeking shelter increased on Monday as Serbs tightened their stranglehold on the enclave.

Sniping by Bosnian Serb troops

had created "a general air of panic", Annink said.

Eric Stobbaerts, the Medecins sans Frontieres spokesman in Belgrade, said patients in Gorazde hospital were being transferred to the basement after shells wrecked the roof.

"We are very concerned about wounded people on the left (east) bank (of the river Drina) who can't get to the hospital because of the sniping," Stobbaerts said. The hospital is situated on the west bank of the Drina, as is most of Gorazde.

The charity has appealed for a ceasefire to allow 200 badly wounded people to be evacuated. Bosnian Serb forces have intensified their siege of Gorazde, snubbing diplomatic efforts to halt the fighting. They shrugged off two NATO air strikes on April 10 and 11, prompting outraged UN peacekeeping commanders to call for a wider UN mandate to use allied air power.

In New York, Boutros-Ghali said on Monday he would seek NATO's authority to call for sweeping air strikes.

"I sent a letter to the secretary-general of NATO (asking it to allow) the United Nations to use air strikes to protect the different free zones in former Yugoslavia," he said.

Clinton weighs new steps in Bosnia

WASHINGTON (AP) - With Bosnia Serbs growing more defiant, President Clinton yesterday considered a range of military and diplomatic steps for dealing with the renewed aggression, including the possibility of broadening the use of NATO air power.

Clinton met with top national security advisers to discuss the turmoil in Bosnia and the siege on Gorazde, which the United Nations commander says threatens to become "a major humanitarian catastrophe."

Shortly before the White House meeting, Bosnian Serbs stormed the Sarajevo arms depot to seize anti-aircraft guns from the UN.

White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said she was unaware of the report, but "clearly, the situation in Gorazde has been grim over the last several days and weeks."

An administration official said yesterday that Clinton's advisers had planned as late as Monday night to recommend the broader use of air power to force the Serbs back the bargaining table. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was unclear, however, exactly what options were presented to Clinton.

Defense Secretary William Perry told reporters that the administration was preparing "a set of new actions." He declined to spell out the possible new actions but suggested they could include military steps.

Myers said Clinton still rules out the use of US forces on the ground and believes that a negotiated settlement "is the only solution. It is the only way to stop the cycle of violence."

Anthony Lake, White House

national security adviser, said Monday that the possibility of doing anything to prevent the fall of Gorazde "seems very limited."

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher led an administration campaign to point out that despite Gorazde there had been positive developments in Bosnia, including the end of the siege of Sarajevo and the confederation agreement reached between the Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

But Christopher also acknowledged that the progress he cited had been overshadowed by "the tragedy in Gorazde."

The secretary of state said that "by their flagrant aggression and inhumane actions, the Bosnian Serbs have once again shown their contempt for the international community and for all humanitarian concerns."

Acclaimed novel contains much plagiarized material

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) - A novelist who was compared to legendary author Virginia Woolf plagiarized another author in writing the acclaimed *Cranes' Morning*, her publishing company says.

The late Indrani Aikath-Gyaltsen apparently lifted material from *The Rosemary Tree* by Elizabeth Goudge, said to Joelle Delbourgo, editor in chief for Ballantine and Fawcett books.

"We are still looking into the situation but it does appear that the author of *Cranes' Morning* did in fact copy substantial sections of that novel," she said yesterday. "We are extremely dis-

mayed by the situation and we have stopped shipping the book."

Cranes' Morning is shorter than *The Rosemary Tree* but the plots are identical. Both involve a stranger coming to a small town and how the stranger's presence affects townspeople.

Aikath-Gyaltsen, who died last year at age 41, apparently switched the setting from England to India, gave the British characters from *The Rosemary Tree* Indian names and changed Christian references to Hindu ones.

Goudge died in 1984 at age 84. *Cranes' Morning* as been highly

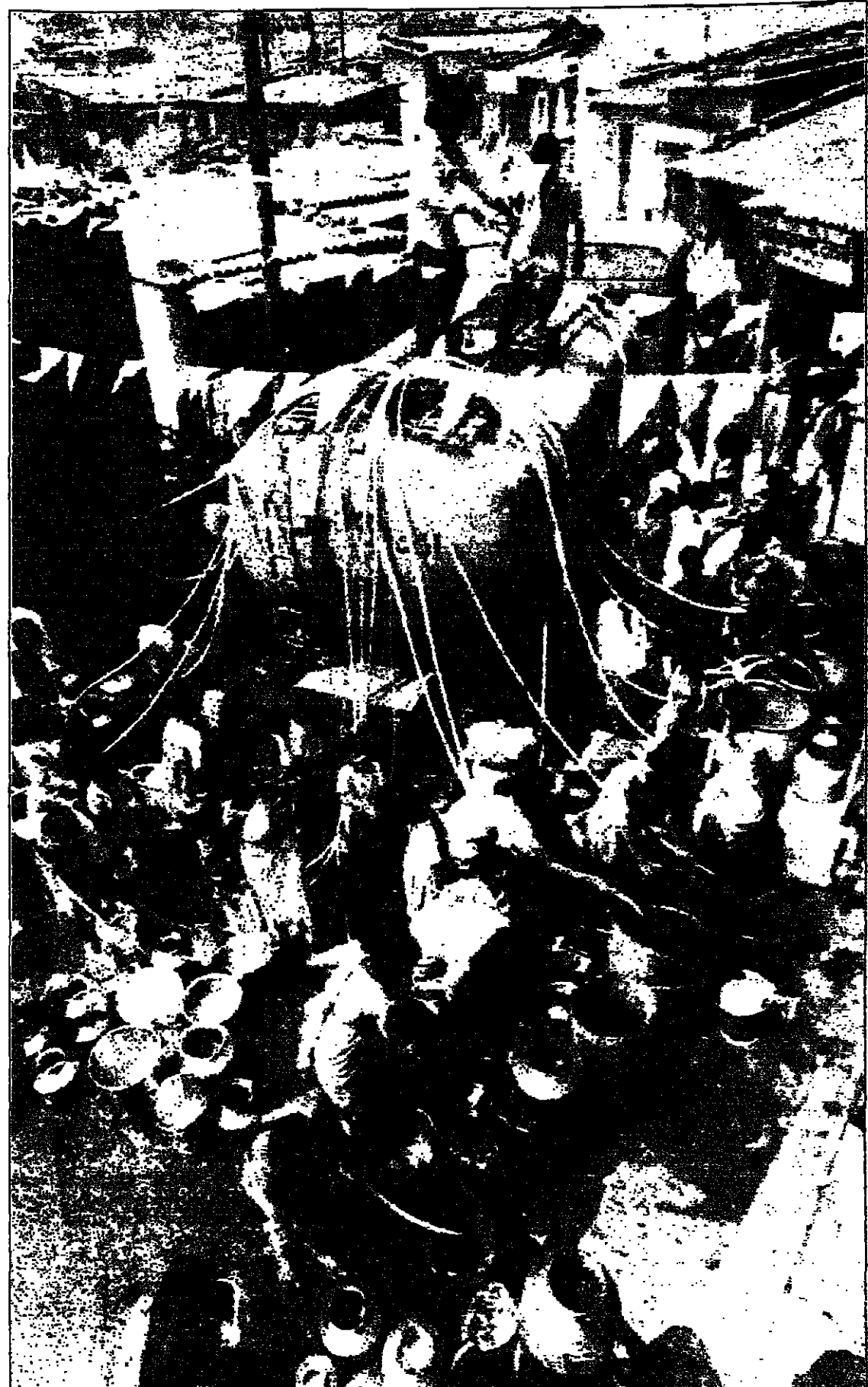
praised by reviewers.

The Washington Post called it exquisite and compared Aikath-Gyaltsen to Woolf. *The New York Times* said the characters in *Cranes' Morning* are endearing, beautifully drawn and insightful.

Cranes' Morning first appeared in India, and in the US in January. About 5,000 copies were sold.

Delbourgo said salespeople were told about the plagiarism and are not to sell any more copies.

Ballantine published one other book by Aikath-Gyaltsen last year, *Daughters of the House*. Delbourgo said there's no reason to believe it copied another author's work.



Villagers siphon water from a tanker in Mumbra Hillock, a small community north of Bombay yesterday. With the beginning of summer, residents of the well-less village become desperate for the daily water delivery. (AP)

US House votes to put Wallenberg bust in Capitol

WASHINGTON (AP) - A bust of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis, will stand in the Capitol.

By a unanimous 358-0 vote, the House of Representatives passed a resolution authorizing Congress to place in the Capitol a bust of Wallenberg by Israeli sculptor Mini Margolin.

The sculpture is a gift from Lillian Hoffman, a human rights activist from Denver.

Wallenberg risked his life in 1944 by going to Hungary, at the request of the United States, to coordinate the rescue of the last remaining Jewish community under Nazi domination.

Wallenberg printed Swedish protective passports, which he distributed to people in deportation trains, on death marches and in front of firing squads. He also organized the so-called international ghetto, consisting of diplomatically protected houses where refugees were kept

alive with food and medicine smuggled by underground messengers.

The Soviet Army occupied Budapest in 1945 and arrested Wallenberg on charges of being an American spy. There were conflicting reports of his whereabouts from the Soviet government and former Soviet prisoners from 1945 until 1981.

Wallenberg and other heroes, including German businessman Oskar Schindler, of *Schindler's List* fame, were recognized this month as part of Holocaust remembrances.

Democratic convention passes pro-Israel plank

TOM TUGEND
LOS ANGELES

THE California Democratic Party wound up its three-day convention at the weekend by adding a pro-Israel and pro-peace plank to its platform.

The resolution was adopted unanimously after language was added to address Palestinian security concerns the following the Hebron massacre.

The Middle East motion originally submitted to the 3,000 delegates before the convention called for "Implementation of the Middle East Declaration of Principles and other agreements signed by Israel and the Palestinians to preserve the security of Israel, as well as the legitimate political rights of Palestinians."

At the request of the Arab-American caucus, and after discussions with the Democrats for Israel delegation, the platform committee added three words to make the end of the sentence read "...as well as address security needs and the legitimate political rights of Palestinians."

"Our chairman, Howard Welinsky, was in touch with the Arab-American group to agree on the wording and avoid a floor fight," said spokesman Paul Ku-

jawsky of Democrats for Israel, Los Angeles.

Salam Al-Marayati, director of the Moslem Public Affairs Council, said that after Hebron Arab-Americans felt special mention should be made of the safety and security concerns of Palestinians, but they were as intent of the pro-Israel delegates to avoid a floor fight.


The opening paragraph of the Middle East plank states that the Democratic Party "advocates a creative and visionary foreign policy, which calls for a continued commitment to assure the security of the State of Israel and support for the US-Israel special relationship."

A separate platform plank, on World Peace, reiterated that party's support for the special relationship between Israel and

America. "Passage of this platform plank reflects the hard work by both Jewish and non-Jewish supporters of Israel and the general concern for the success of the peace process," said Jessica Braverman, AIPAC political field director for the Pacific Northwest region.

Vice President Al Gore was the convention's key speaker.

A thoroughly comprehensive sweep of local and national Jewish organizations threw an ice cream party for nearly 500 delegates. Among the sponsors were AIPAC, Democrats for Israel, the Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee, Jewish Community Relations Committee, Jewish Labor Committee and American Jewish World Service, as well as US Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and other Jewish holders of political office.



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Bonn argues for German troops to serve abroad

KARLSRUHE (Reuters) — German Defense Minister Klaus Kinkel said today that Germany's troops would not be sent to the Balkans to help maintain the peace in Bosnia. He said the German government was not in a position to do so because of the need to maintain a strong domestic presence.

The minister said that Germany's troops would be sent to the Balkans only if the United Nations could provide a clear mandate for them. He said that Germany's troops would be sent to the Balkans only if the United Nations could provide a clear mandate for them.

Former US President Nixon has a stroke

NEW YORK (AP) — Former US President Richard Nixon, who left the White House in disgrace during the Watergate scandal, suffered a stroke that aides said left him unable to talk.

The 81-year-old Nixon was stricken at his home in New Jersey while getting ready for dinner and was taken by ambulance to New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, said his spokeswoman Kathy O'Connor.

His daughters, Tricia Cox and Julie Eisenhower, and the Rev. Billy Graham, a longtime friend, rushed to his bedside. His wife, Pat, died in 1993.

Nixon was in intensive care and his condition was described as stable. Kim Taylor, another Nixon spokeswoman, said this morning that he was "awake, alert and attentive" but unable to speak.

Nixon's doctors would not give a prediction on his prospects until 24 hours after the stroke, Taylor said.

The *Daily News* quoted an unidentified emergency-room worker as saying Nixon, wearing an oxygen mask, waved to companions as they visited him in the emergency room.

Americans responded quickly to word that the former president was a man whose foreign policy successes during the Cold War were overshadowed by the Watergate scandal — had been stricken.

Taylor said Nixon's office had been flooded with calls from "Mr. and Mrs. America, from Iowa and Oklahoma, from other people who have had strokes."

At the same hospital is Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, whose husband defeated Nixon in the 1960 presidential election. The former first lady, who has cancer of the lymph system, is recovering from surgery for a bleeding ulcer.

Strokes — damage to part of the brain caused by insufficient blood supply — are the third leading cause of death in the United States. They strike about 500,000 people annually, killing one-third. Speech problems and one-sided weakness or paralysis are common effects of a stroke.

Nixon was the nation's 37th president. He served from Jan. 20, 1969, to Aug. 9, 1974, resigning amid the Watergate scandal and becoming the only president to leave office.

He came to the presidency after nearly a quarter-century as a Republican officeholder — congressman, senator, and vice president under Dwight Eisenhower.

He was a devout anti-communist at the start of his political career. But as president, he ended two decades of distance between the United States and China, exchanging toasts with Chairman Mao Tse-tung in Beijing. He established a live-and-let-live policy of détente toward the Soviet Union and negotiated arms control agreements with the Kremlin. And he negotiated an end to US involvement in the Vietnam War.

Watergate became shorthand for the 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee offices at the Watergate complex and the botched attempt to cover it up by Nixon and his top lieutenants.

A month after Nixon resigned, the country was outraged when his successor, Gerald R. Ford, issued a pardon for all crimes that Nixon committed or may have committed or taken part in during his presidency.

"While I was not involved in the decision to conduct the break-in, I should have set a higher standard for the conduct of the people who participated in my campaign and administration. I should have established a moral tone that would have made such actions unthinkable. I did not," Nixon wrote in 1990 in his ninth book, *In the Arena*.

Inkatha ends boycott of South African elections

TINA SUSMAN
PRETORIA

ZULU nationalists ended their boycott of South Africa's first all-race election yesterday, raising hopes for an end to political violence that had threatened the vote just eight days away.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the KwaZulu black homeland and the Inkatha Freedom Party, announced his supporters would enter the election after meeting for three hours with President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

"Final agreement was reached securing the kingdom of KwaZulu and the role of his majesty," Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, Buthelezi said. "I therefore am pleased to announce that the Inkatha Freedom Party will contest elections at the national and provincial levels."

The country's estimated 7.5 million Zulus — South Africa's largest ethnic group — were urged by their king to take part in the historic vote, the first to include the black majority.

"The Zulu nation should now freely support this process," said Zwelithini, in a statement read to reporters.

It was too late to reprint the 80 million paper ballots to include Inkatha before the April 26-28 vote. But the judge in charge, Johann Krieger, announced that stickers with Inkatha's name and symbol would be printed and stuck on to the margins of the ballots by workers at each polling station.

Political fighting between Inkatha-supporting Zulu nationalists and supporters of the ANC has killed more than 12,000 people in the past four years and more than 200 so far in April.

"It is my deepest hope that this agreement will bring to an end the violence," de Klerk told a news conference by the three leaders after their discussions ended in Pretoria, the capital.

"This agreement is a leap forward for peace, reconciliation, nation-building and an inclusive election process," said Mandela, the longtime political prisoner expected to become South Africa's first black president.

The announcement occurred in an atmosphere of unbridled joy and relief. In Buthelezi's words, "South Africa may well have been saved from disastrous consequences of unimaginable proportions."

As the talks took place, Inkatha and ANC supporters fought gun battles in the Tokoza black township southeast of Johannesburg. Journalists saw at least two bodies



A resident of the Tokoza township in the eastern suburbs of Johannesburg is carried away after being shot in continuing violence between members of the ANC and the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party.

under a new constitution to take effect after the election.

He has demanded autonomy for Zulus and having the monarchy of Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini recognized in the constitution.

Buthelezi said yesterday the agreement secured the "kingdom of KwaZulu and the role of his majesty the king" of the Zulus.

International mediation of Inkatha's demands for strong regional powers would take place after the election, de Klerk said. The existing Parliament, the nation's last all-white legislature, will be reconvened one last time, probably Monday, to amend election laws so that Inkatha can be included, he said.

At the last stage of the negotiations yesterday, the leaders were joined by Krieger, chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, to work out the technical details.

Inkatha has done little campaigning, but is believed to have money put aside for a final blitz. Its positions are well known in the country because of its persistent opposition to the electoral process.

The announcement followed months of fitful talks by the government, the ANC and Inkatha. Until Monday, Buthelezi had been insisting on a postponement of the election.

Buthelezi was under tremendous pressure to come into the political process — faced with the prospect of losing his position as chief minister of KwaZulu and lacking any representation in the new parliament.

But the ANC and the government were under pressure as well, under threat of possible prolonged armed resistance from Inkatha-supporting Zulus, which would undermine the economy at the historic moment when South Africa's black majority was coming to power.

University professor's African mindset clinched election deal

PRETORIA — A Kenyan university don, who succeeded where Western statesmen failed, said yesterday that clinching South Africa's elections deal took little more than an understanding of how Africa works.

Professor Washington Jalang'o Okumu, who stayed behind after fellow foreign mediators gave up on South Africa's constitutional crisis, said Western mindsets had clouded what was an essentially African problem.

"(Ex-US secretary of state Henry) Kissinger was the leader of our team, he was my teacher. I left him to do it mechanically

through the ways of the Western mind," he replied when asked how he had succeeded in winning the Inkatha Freedom Party's agreement to join the transition to majority rule.

"You give deadlines and say you must do such and such by this date. In Africa that does not work. You must address sensitivities and deeply-felt prejudices."

To President (F.W.) de Klerk, I want to say that Africa regards him as one of the greatest statesmen for having been part of ushering in democracy in South Africa," he said. "The whole of Africa and the whole world will

rejoice what has happened here today."

Professor Okumu, who has degrees from Harvard and from Cambridge University, is ambassador-at-large of Kenya's official opposition forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD-Kenya) party. He worked for the UN development agency UNIDO from 1971 to 1987.

Emotional South Africans from all walks of life hailed Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's decision yesterday to take part in elections with an outpouring of euphoria.

"Thank you Chief Buthelezi, thank you Mr. Mandela, thank you Mr. de Klerk," said Baleka, a black woman from Soweto, who called a phone-in programme on Johannesburg's independent Radio 702.

Caller after caller to the station welcomed the announcement by Buthelezi, President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela that Inkatha was ending its boycott of next week's first all-race elections.

Joe said he had heard the news on his car radio.

"My heart just melted into my shoes," he said. "It was like that feeling you get when you first fall in love."

Beryl said she celebrated her 47th wedding anniversary yesterday and she and her husband could not have received a better present than Buthelezi's about-turn. "I'm so happy," she said.

Talk show host Mike Mills had to remind his listeners that the agreement did not signal the end to all of their fears and problems.

"We've still got a long way to go, but of course this is a very positive development," Mills said. Psychological counsellors have

reported a sharp increase in stress-related problems linked to fears about the future, particularly among whites.

But many black callers to Radio 702 said they were grateful for the accord yesterday because it would end the violence plaguing their townships in which 20,000 people have died in the last decade.

Abdul told Radio 702 he was forming a company to buy up stockpiles of canned food and candles. "They'll be going cheap, because we don't need them anymore," he said. "What a wonderful day."

US black leader belittles Holocaust

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

FORMER Nation of Islam official Khalid Abdul Muhammad launched a new antisemitic invective here Monday, claiming that "the black Holocaust is 100 times worse" than that perpetrated against the "so-called Jews."

"We the black man and black woman of America have not only experienced a Holocaust, but we have paid a hell of a cost," Muhammad told reporters after touring the US Holocaust Memorial Museum for two hours accompanied by his young son, Farrakhan, and personal bodyguards.

"Where there are those who have lost six million, we over the last 6,000 years in general... have lost over 600 million, which means that the black Holocaust is 100 times worse than any Holocaust ever recorded in the annals of time," he added.

Saying he was "sensitive to the pain and suffering that we saw inside [the museum's] walls," Muhammad maintained that the suffering of blacks was unlike the Nazi Holocaust because it "did

not last for a decade, but lasted for over 400 years, and in another sense for 6,000 years."

Muhammad used the opportunity outside the museum to promote a rally he was scheduled to address last night at Howard University together with controversial City College of New York professor Leonard Jeffries.

Muhammad's appearance coincided with a news conference next door announcing a \$1 million, five-year Holocaust education program in the Washington school system sponsored by Fannie Mae, a corporation that provides mortgages for moderate income housing.

Muhammad was rebuked two months ago by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan for a speech he gave at a New Jersey college where he claimed Jews were "sucking" the blood of blacks.

But Farrakhan said he stood by the "truths" of Muhammad's words.

Irish, British police in IRA financing snoop

Raid comes after 12-month investigation

BELFAST (Reuters) — British and Irish police launched raids against suspected IRA refuges across Britain and Ireland yesterday in a crackdown on funding for the organization, police said.

A police spokesman in Belfast, Northern Ireland, said the raids were the result of 12 months of investigation and were a "major operation into terrorist funding."

The spokesman said he could give no details of any arrests that may have been made or the exact locations of the raids.

He said members of Northern Ireland's anti-racketeering

squad, police from the Irish Republic and British police forces in London, Surrey in southern England, and the northern English counties of Lancashire and Merseyside were taking part.

"The operation involved simultaneous searches of premises in Britain and Ireland and followed 12 months of intensive investigation," the spokesman said. "The operation is ongoing."

The Irish Republican Army has been fighting for 25 years to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Rwanda refugees shelled, some UN troops pull out

KIGALI (Reuters) — Rwandan troops shelled Kigali's refugee-packed national stadium yesterday, killing nine, and the United Nations evacuated some of its forces without a ceasefire in sight.

UN officials said positions were hardening on both sides of the Rwandan conflict and, after nearly two weeks of bloodshed, the Security Council was likely to decide to withdraw all UN peacekeepers.

The army and rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) are battling for control of the capital, where the shooting down of the president's plane on April 6 set off a blood-bath broadly along tribal lines.

Tens of thousands of Rwandans are believed to have died and up to two million have been driven

from their homes or camps.

"The situation appears to be getting worse rather than improving," Abdul Kabia, executive director of UNAMIR, the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda, said as shelling shook the city.

"We are continuing to talk to both parties but our efforts have stalled and we're not getting anywhere," he told Reuters.

"We find that the positions of both parties are hardening. They are making more demands... not helpful to the peace process."

"We understand the (UN) Security Council will meet later today to take definite decisions on the future of UNAMIR. If they ask us to stay we will stay. If they ask us to go we will go."

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The last hurdle

THE Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party's agreement to join next week's first all-race elections is the most important event in South Africa's recent history since Nelson Mandela walked free from jail four years ago. The wave of euphoria which reportedly swept the country after the announcement yesterday is not hard to understand. The gloom and bloodshed of recent months has been replaced by optimism that South Africa now has the chance to become Africa's first great democracy.

The dangers and problems that remain loom large, but it would be churlish not to rejoice with South Africans at the happy news and to give due credit to the leaders and mediators who achieved the near impossible - "a goal scored in injury time," as one official called it.

Since the defeat of white extremists in Bophuthatswana, Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has borne the brunt of the blame for growing fears that this election could become a violence-torn shambles. By agreeing to take his Zulu nation on board the election train, he has restored his credibility, renamed his apparent intransigence as mere brinkmanship, and redefined his tough stand for more Zulu autonomy as principled rather than destructive. It was a great relief for all South Africans to see him take his place yesterday beside the country's two other outstanding leaders. Man-

dela and President F.W. de Klerk.

What is especially encouraging for South Africans is that the impasse was mediated in an African way, by Africans, after the failure of superstars like Henry Kissinger and Lord Carrington. All concerned paid tribute to this remarkable achievement by Kenya's Dr. Washington Okumu, who began work only last Friday on the problem that had blocked South Africa's progress to democracy for months. "You [Westerners] give deadlines and say you must do such and such by this date," Okumu said, explaining where he succeeded after Kissinger's failure. "In Africa that does not work. You must address sensitivities and deeply-felt prejudices."

This "African way" of the quiet Kenyan diplomat and academic is a rare good omen from a continent known for its unmitigated failures - such as the current mess in Rwanda. It is generally agreed that South Africa is the only nation left that has a chance of setting a new example for Africa. And if it fails, its collapse will be the biggest disaster in the continent's long catalogue of disasters. Never has an emerging country had such a fund of international goodwill and good wishes as South Africa now enjoys. It is up to its three remarkable leaders to deliver the goods - a free election for their diverse and multiracial people; freedom at last from the heavy chains of apartheid.

Bus security

POLICE Inspector-General Rafi Peled was only stating the obvious when he said Monday's terrorist attack on bus passengers in Jerusalem could have ended with "much more damage." That only two passengers were badly wounded was a cause for relief. In the past, similar attacks caused deaths. Nor can Peled be faulted for commending the army sergeant-major who rushed onto the bus and shot the attacker. Quick action against terrorists should be encouraged.

But it would be irresponsible to ignore the puzzling aspects of the incident. The bus driver, presumably following routine procedures, drove the bus to an army post as soon as he realized what was happening. A passenger then jumped out and informed a guard at the gate that an ax-wielder was on the bus. The guard summoned the sergeant-major who boarded the bus with an M-16. But by that time the terrorist had been disarmed, if not subdued, by passenger Menahem Friedman, an immigrant from Russia. Yet the soldier fired his gun, wounding not only the terrorist but three passengers, including Friedman. Another passenger was shot in the stomach and lost a kidney.

It is, then, not quite clear that the sergeant-major's action prevented "much more damage." The opposite may be true. Nor is it clear why the armed guard did not board the bus

himself. And even less clear is why the sergeant-major should be commended after firing so carelessly at short range. It would put the public's mind at rest if the police investigated the incident thoroughly.

But the most pertinent question must be why the army has failed to devise security measures for public transportation. There are 4,000 Egged buses in the country. Since the beginning of the intifada in 1987, 13,000 attacks on buses by rioters and terrorists have been reported. Egged officials have repeatedly appealed for protective measures, claiming that telling drivers how to conduct themselves in an emergency is not enough. Nor can arming every driver provide a solution: the driver's first duty is to drive safely. The government, according to Egged, has failed to respond.

Egged has suggested assigning a security guard who would "ride shotgun" on buses the way such guards rode on airliners. To have an armed escort on every bus is impractical, but even posting guards only on the more vulnerable routes, and randomly on other lines, should act as an effective deterrent.

It would help, too, if Egged personnel were more conscious of security precautions. As anyone who has traveled by bus must have noticed, the sloppiness, carelessness and insouciance of many bus drivers in matters of security border on criminal negligence.



Kill a fly with a cannon

MOSHE ZAK

WHAT has happened to Israeli diplomacy? Where have the sophistication, know-how and resilience gone, that were displayed during the state's years of isolation before the Six-Day War?

How could the foreign minister go to Ankara and ask his Turkish counterpart to mediate between Jerusalem and Damascus? Didn't any of his aides draw his attention to the tension between Turkey and Syria?

Why hasn't Israel publicly declared that it regards the planned state visits of the presidents of Portugal and Russia to Yasser Arafat in Jericho as a blow to the Declaration of Principles? That agreement keeps foreign affairs and security issues out of the hands of the Palestinian autonomy authority during the interim period, since these are symbols of an independent state. By not declaring our reservations, we could be inviting other national leaders to follow suit.

How was it possible for a false report to be leaked in Israel alleging that the IDF had confiscated the ammunition of the South Lebanon Army's artillery? Was it to "balance" another false report claiming that the Syrian and Lebanese armies were seizing the weapons of Hizbullah in Ba'albek? Did anyone consider whether it was worth angering the SLA's commander, Gen. Antoine Lahad? And did anyone assess the results of a disintegration of the SLA - which also defends our northern towns and villages?

Why don't the foreign minister's advisers point out that in taunting the opposition that it has no alternative to his policy, he was opening himself up to PLO extortion - because he has no alternative?

What if Arafat digs in his heels and, at the last moment, refuses to sign the agreement? The knowledge that the other side does have an alternative is essential for the success of any negotiation.

And why should Syrian President Hafez Assad bargain with us over the Golan when various branches of our administration (including the Foreign Ministry and

the IDF) compete in publishing plans for a Golan settlement? He needs no secret meeting with our prime minister to ascertain Israel's plans - he reads them all in the Israeli press.

Why does our prime minister warn the PLO from the Knesset floor against cooperating with Hamas, when Israeli delegates in Cai-

ro are discussing the PLO demand to release thousands of Hamas prisoners from Israeli jails? Why not state explicitly in Cairo that the demand is a violation of the agreement to fight terrorism?

And why is it necessary to trumpet from the rooftops the prospects of future relations with Oman, when these ties have existed for many years? In fact, they got full exposure with the handshake of Menachem Begin and Sultan Qaboos at Anwar Sadat's funeral, as well as in public meetings of official Omani representatives and Israeli diplomats to discuss cooperation.

THIS LIST of examples of Israel's shooting from the hip could be expanded. But let us suffice with one additional instance: the public warning to King Hussein about Hamas activities based in Jordan. In the past, this warning was a matter of routine. Israel would warn Amman against Fatah activities from bases in Jordan; this helped the king explain to his public that Palestinian terrorists attacking Israel from his territory were provoking strong Israeli countermeasures and endangering Jordan's security.

But today, both Hussein and Hamas know that Israel will not carry out any retaliation inside Jordan. So the effect of the warning is to serve the PLO's interest in its political rivalry with Hamas. Indeed, Hussein responded by declaring his recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Our prior understandings with Jordan ensured quiet along the border, helping to block the infiltration of hostile forces; they are much more important than any Hamas office in Amman. Israelis crossing the border in error have been returned without delay or blackmail, and the value of this greatly exceeds that of the public proclamations of the Hamas agent in Amman.

Pointing an accusing finger at Hussein could disrupt Jordan's efforts to lift the troublesome blockade of Akaba; a public Israeli warning could make it harder for him to enlist Congressional support in his request for foreign aid (not too long ago, Israel intervened to advocate the renewal of US aid to Jordan).

Jerusalem justified this hasty, ill-considered warning, pointing out that Jordanian passports were subsequently withdrawn from two Hamas activists in Amman. But was it necessary to kill a fly with a cannon? Was it worth embittering Hussein - who carries out his commitments to Israel in essential matters - just to have two passports annulled?

Did anyone think ahead to the next couple of steps after the warning, and not just about the initial blast in a moment of anger and pressure?

It would seem that the talks with the PLO are blinding us, and Israeli diplomacy is now locked on to them as the only option. Wisdom and resourcefulness obligate us not to ignore past allies, certainly not before the Cairo negotiations have borne fruit on the ground.

Meanwhile, it is more important to retain Jordanian cooperation along the border than to close the Hamas office in Amman.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Having been tricked into agreeing that the Golan has a price, Israel has lost its moral standing

about ten pounds?" Here's a counterproposal. No end yet to terrorism, no end yet to hate. No diplomatic ties, no commercial ties, no cultural ties. No end to the campaign for a complete withdrawal from whatever the Palestinian Arabs lay claim to. Meanwhile, how about retreating from the Golan in return for a handshake?

"Ten pounds? Mr. Shaw - just what kind of a woman do you think I am?" THAT'S NOT what we had in mind. Our presence on the Golan is old enough for archeology, and renewed recently enough for living widows to remember. Our presence was more benign than the Syrian presence, and the risks are all on our side.

We never referred to Syria as Northern Israel, the way Syria refers to our land as Southern Syria. Of course we are willing to make sacrifices for peace - but what do you take us for?

"We've already established what you are," said Shaw quickly. "Now we're haggling over the price."

By being tricked into agreeing that the Golan has a price, any price, Israel has lost its moral standing in these negotiations.

Look at Syria, on the one hand, saying the Golan is Syrian territory, and that's that. Look at Israel, on the other, saying we're willing to talk leasing, shared sovereignty, trial periods, international guarantees.

Who's acting like a lady, and who's acting like someone who's got to strike a deal, one way or another, before all the pedestrians go home?

Sinai in general and Tabah in particular showed how, instead of international admiration for our sacrifices in the cause of peace, Israeli territorial concessions are interpreted as only a welcome end to wrongful occupation.

After all, what country ever volunteers to leave territory it rightfully holds? And if its hold isn't rightful, then any price it demands is immoral. And tough bargaining is infuriatingly greedy stubbornness, in the view of anyone with a sense of urgency.

President Bill Clinton senses urgency. On his way back from meeting with Assad earlier this year, he told reporters, "We all knew on September 13 that, in the end, the only way to hold this thing together was to get the rest of it done."

That is, Clinton wants to satisfy Yasser Arafat that Assad is satisfied, and vice versa. A difficult trick, when whoever holds out the longest can label the other a softie.

Even pukeish old Shaw didn't dare say, hypothetically: "For two million guineas, would you spend the night with both me and Max Beerbohm?"

The writer is mayor of Jerusalem for almost three decades.

Lady and the tramp

MARK L. LEVINSON

"Tell me," said George Bernard Shaw to the lady. "Do you suppose that for a million guineas you would spend the night with me?"

WHY the question? Oh, just wondering, idly wondering, no reason. Would Israel come down from the Golan in return for sincere and enforceable peace?

Oh yes, we know all about the Golan's topography and about Hafez Assad's antics in Lebanon, and about his unreliable health, and about his insistence on receiving all Israeli concessions on all fronts in advance; about how he hasn't observed the Taif agreement and he won't speak to Israeli reporters, and perhaps real peace with Syria is far from likely. But the question is - What if? Would we come down from the Golan?

"A million guineas? What a whimsical man you are, Mr. Shaw. For a million guineas, yes I suppose I would."

Of course, we would want extensive demilitarization. We would want air rights, water rights, inspection rights, free travel and emigration, soccer matches, food festivals, diplomatic ties, cultural ties, no ostracism, no terrorism, no irreverence, no demonization. But in return for all that: Yes, we would.

"I see," said Shaw. "And how

Having been tricked into agreeing that the Golan has a price, Israel has lost its moral standing

about ten pounds?" Here's a counterproposal. No end yet to terrorism, no end yet to hate. No diplomatic ties, no commercial ties, no cultural ties. No end to the campaign for a complete withdrawal from whatever the Palestinian Arabs lay claim to. Meanwhile, how about retreating from the Golan in return for a handshake?

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The writer is a Herzliya-based free-lancer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GLIMMER OF HOPE

Sir, - "The government has to evacuate us... It's irresponsible to leave us..." They go now, but I'm hysterical from the time they leave till they get back..." Some comments from concerned mothers living in the territories, Gaza and Jericho, as published in *The Jerusalem Post* of April 4.

When looking for a new apartment some years ago, my husband and I decided not to look at anything beyond the Green Line. Why didn't the concerned mothers above think the same? Why did they bring innocent children into territories surrounded by hostile neighbors? Did they think the Palestinians would welcome their presence? The Likud and the reli-

gious parties led them and the country up the garden path - and they believed them.

Since the Labor government has been in power, the picture has changed dramatically. Doors are open to us, economic agreements with erstwhile hostile partners pave the way to a stronger, thriving Israel, and we are actually talking and negotiating with former enemies.

In the Likud's day, the whole of Israel and territories was an armed camp. Now, in spite of "bazaar" negotiations, there is a glimmer of hope. Before there was none.

MIRIAM LAHAV
Jerusalem.

MUSIC REVIEWS

Sir, - According to critic Benjamin Bar-Am (April 5), guest conductor Yuri Temirkanov failed his Schumann test with the IPO. In addition, he maintains that the Brahms violin concerto has long lost its impact.

As far as I am concerned, a person so blasé that the Brahms violin concerto does not move him is obviously emotionally dead, if not yet buried, and unable to criticize

any musical performance.

The IPO's performance of Schumann's fourth with Temirkanov was a delight and far from the sugary drug that some prefer. Just because Schumann is called a romantic, it does not follow that his music cannot be performed in a bravura manner. Ask any Toscanini fan.

PETER HIRSCHMANN
Haifa.

WARTIME ROMANIA

Sir, - The Israel office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center is assisting the Office of Special Investigations of the US Justice Department in its efforts to find witnesses who have personal knowledge of the events in the police prefecture in Bucharest, Romania, during the period from October 1940 until January 1941. We are also looking for anyone with knowledge of any connection between prefecture officials and the murder of political opponents of the Iron Guard at Jilava in November 1940 and/or

the persecution of Jews during the uprising in January 1941.

Anyone with knowledge of these events or of the whereabouts of other persons, living anywhere in the world, with knowledge of these events, should contact our office at 1 Mendele St., Jerusalem 92147. Tel: (02) 631273; fax: (02) 631276.

EFRAIM ZUROFF
Director, Israel Office,
Simon Wiesenthal Center
Jerusalem.

PENFRIENDS

Sir, - The Correspondence Exchange Program of the International Correspondence Club (ICC) wishes to develop and maintain through the medium of correspondence friendly relations and better understanding between the people of Malta and the people of other countries, to organize correspondence exchanges for schoolchildren, students and adults, and to contribute to the knowledge of foreign languages.

The ICC is a non-commercial, non-political and non-religious organization. We are mainly concerned with education and culture. Those interested should write to ICC, 5, Censu Borg Street, Hamrun, HMR 06, Malta.

ALBERT V. RUTTER,

Director,
International Correspondence Club
Hamrun, Malta.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Sir, - I have worked and lived in New York City for a great many years. In my position as an employment agency counselor, I have met many newcomers to New York. I have noticed that many new immigrants from Eastern Europe do not like Jews. This is especially true of the Romanians. They actually hate Jews and Israel, and aren't ashamed to say this.

How can the government of Israel bring these Jew-haters to Israel as construction workers?

I would also like to add that, according to the World Health Organization, Romanian men rank high on the list of HIV-AIDS infected people.

KEN KLEIN
Netanya (West Nyack, N.Y.).

A friend in need and deed

TEDDY KOLLEK

OVER the years, my name hasn't appeared very often on the economics pages of the press. My knowledge of economics has been restricted to price rises in housing and sewage requirements. I don't know much about the Stock Exchange.

But experience has taught me something about values, character and personal morality. And though I have no intention of arguing with the verdict in the case of Raphael Recanati, chairman of the Discount Bank Corporation, I feel that my shock at his sentence has to go on record.

Conscience obliges me to write briefly about the man, for those who have not been privileged to know him as I have.

Our friendship spans decades. His dedication to the State of Israel has been unreserved. He has worked tirelessly for the good of this country and the nation. His honesty and modesty have always been an integral part of his personality.

Rafi is one of the few Israelis who believe that financial support for the country's education-

al and cultural institutions should devolve not only on Diaspora Jews, but on all Israel's citizens. His generosity knows no bounds. He has donated funds to an infi-

Israelis owe a great debt to Rafi Recanati and his family

nite number of enterprises countrywide, in many cases anonymously.

Rafi Recanati and his family are part of what is still, to my great regret, a small minority here doing this sort of thing.

RAFI IS special in another way. Living and managing his affairs in Tel Aviv, he nevertheless understands Jerusalem's significance for

the Jewish People.

He never refused any request of mine for help for our city - and I went to him often. I never needed to try and convince him of the need. I only had to ask.

I won't elaborate on his good deeds - even though as chairman of the Israel Museum, I could testify to his contributions to the museum and his support of artists and museums around the country. I might just mention his founding of the Science Museum at the Haifa Technion.

Israel's citizens ought to be aware of the debt we all owe Rafi Recanati and his family for their role in building the country and boosting its economic development.

Whatever the verdict of history - and of the law courts - on the banks' activities a decade ago, we must not forget Raphael Recanati's enormous contribution to the State of Israel. His generosity and dedication are a worthy model for us all.

The writer was mayor of Jerusalem for almost three decades.

POSTSCRIPTS

IT TOOK two-year-old Michael Dorton a while to figure out his mother was not playing when she asked him more than a dozen times to bring her the telephone. When he did, the toddler probably saved her life.

Stephanie Dorton of Vibbard, Missouri, was trying to change a flat tire outside her home when the jack gave way. Its engine running,

the car fell on her, pinning her ankle and causing her to pass out. Drifting in and out of consciousness for more than two hours in freezing temperatures, she repeatedly asked Michael for the phone, which has a cord long enough to stretch outside. Apparently thinking it was a game, he held it out to his mother and then pulled it away.

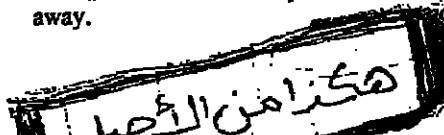
Dorton, 20, finally got the phone and called for help. Firefighters rescued her and changed the tire, too.

Dorton suffered a bruised leg, frostbite and carbon monoxide poisoning.

"The hospital said I probably had an hour left to live," Dorton said.

PROOFREADERS AT Canada's postal service let a royal error slip through in the production of a souvenir stamp book - a reference to "the Prince of Wales."

Much to Canada Post's chagrin, the book was printed with a passage describing a visit by "the Prince of Wales" to the snowy shores in 1860. He eventually became King Edward VII.



Give Soldiers lifts

Syria flatly rejects proposal on Golan



DAMASCUS — Syria this week rejected Israeli ideas for revitalizing talks between it and Israel, especially the Israeli position paper on Israel's security interests in the Golan, drawn up by Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran.

The paper of the ruling Ba'ath party, *Al-Ba'ath*, declared Monday that Syria would refuse out of hand to deal with any Israeli proposal that does not signify commitment to complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

"Syria will not accept any other wording," the paper asserted. The paper also rejected ideas offered by Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for high-level secret talks.

Syria, it said, had "never used, in any event, the system of secret talks and the policy of behind-the-scenes bargaining."

The official government newspaper *Tishreen* said that the Israeli position paper, showed no signs of readiness for total withdrawal, but it made demands by Israel for normalization of ties with Syria as well as security demands.

"The gist of this is that the policy of Israeli distortions has not changed at all," *Tishreen* said. (*Al-Ba'ath*, *Tishreen*, April 18)

ALGERIANS FIGHT THREATS TO SECURITY, ECONOMY
ALGIERS — Algerian officials sentenced four Islamic militants to death, and 163 to imprisonment, in the government's latest actions against Moslem rebels. Another 11 militants were killed in fighting with army forces in the last week.

Al-Wakef reported that the head of a local town council in Larabatah, 30 km. south of here, was found shot to death near his house Monday.

The battling with the Moslem forces has dramatically weakened the Algerian economy, and the government decided last week to devalue its dinar as a way of speeding international aid from such organizations as the World Bank.

The government said the local currency would be pegged at 36 to the dollar as opposed to 26 to the dollar — a devaluation of some 40 percent.

Algeria, much of whose income comes from oil revenues, has been hard hit not only by the terror attacks, which have scared away foreign investors and tourists, but also by low petroleum prices.

Algeria is eagerly seeking an \$800 million-dollar loan from the World Bank to help deal with pressing financial problems, including an inflation rate over 30 percent and factories operating at under 50 percent capacity.

Twenty radicals were killed in two days of battles with government forces earlier this month. (Combined from the Algerian News Service, Reuters, and Itim April 18, 17, 10, 5, and *Al-Wakef*, April 18)

EGYPT EXTENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY
CAIRO — Egypt's parliament has extended the national state of emergency until May 1997, according to a statement issued by parliament, which justified the action on the grounds of unusual security conditions.

About 400 Egyptians and several foreign tourists and investors have been killed in two years of fighting between the government and Islamic radicals.

Prime Minister Atef Sidki promised that the continuation of emergency regulations would still be under the supervision and review of the Egyptian judiciary, although most of the militants have gone to trial before summary military tribunals.

Interior Minister Hassan Alfi told parliament that 27 Egyptian officers had been killed or murdered by the militants, along with 98 policemen. Six Egyptian generals were killed, and the militants have also tried to attack President Hosni Mubarak and Sidki, and succeeded in wounding Alfi and his predecessor.

The Interior Ministry reported Sunday that it had arrested 500 Egyptians in Cairo on a variety of weapons charges, and the Cairo newspaper *Al-Ahram* reported another 64 arrests for membership in terrorist organizations in the Upper Egyptian town of Assiut, a hotbed of Islam militancy. (*Al-Ahram*, wire services, April 17)

JORDAN ARRESTS TERROR NET
AMMAN — Jordan has arrested an Islamic terror network of 10 people operating around the Jordanian capital.

The group was still in the organizational phase, security sources said. They were trying to raise money through bank robberies and robbery attempts on stores and taxi drivers.

Jordanian authorities refused to release further details except to say that the head of the network was a 38-year-old man.

Several Jordanian officials, including King Hussein, have said that Hamas terror operations were illegal, but Iranian State Radio warned Jordan against trying to inhibit Hamas activities. (*Al-Rai*, April 18. Iranian State Radio, April 17)

NEW JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT EXPECTED
AMMAN — King Hussein is expected to move to re-shuffle the Jordanian government at the end of next month. Prime Minister Abdel-Salaam Majali is expected to continue to head the government, but significant changes are expected, "to deal with regional developments," according to a newspaper here. (*Al-Ahram*, April 18)

HAMAS MAKES THREATS FROM JORDAN
AMMAN — Senior Hamas officials told the Jordanian paper *Al-Bilad* Sunday that they had placed a significant number of missiles "in the territory of Palestine," including several that were uncovered by Israeli security forces near Ramle.

"This is only a small portion of what Hamas has acquired and distributed to various locations," the officials told the paper.

Meanwhile, Hamas issued a statement offering to stop attacks on Israeli civilians if Israel stopped attacking Arab civilians.

The policy of attacking Israeli civilians "is a policy that has been forced on us by the government of the enemy," the statement said. (*Al-Bilad*, Itim, Reuters, April 17) M.D.W.



TERMS OF ENDEARMENT — 'The conditions for peace in the Middle East' are seen coming out of a Zionist typewriter, according to 'Al-Quds' Jerusalem daily.

PLO is silent on terror due to Hamas links

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's refusal to condemn the terror attack in Afula and his veiled criticism of the Hadera murders are a continuation of PLO policy, which prevails despite the signing of the Declaration of Principles with Israel last September.

It is highly unlikely, according to intelligence sources and academic analysts, that Arafat will change this policy soon and unequivocally criticize attacks by his own Fatah Hawks or by Hamas against Jews and against Arab "collaborators."

In front of Western audiences, Arafat plays the "good guy" who negotiates with Israel, while allowing Hamas to play the "bad guy" who attacks Israel. But the Fatah Hawks — 40 to 60 of whom are still operating in Gaza — have not been expelled by the PLO leader, either.

When Arabs are killed, armed or not, Arafat is quick to call it an Israeli plot — even though there is often contrary evidence. The PLO leader accused the IDF of killing many of the Arabs slain in the Hebron massacre committed by Dr. Baruch Goldstein.

"After the ugly massacre committed by the murderous settler and the occupying army, our entire people stood up to defend their presence," declared Arafat in a statement read by a PLO broadcaster on Voice of the Palestinian Revolution from Baghdad on March 26.

He went on to urge an escalation of the intifada: "The great national intifada, which is continuing and growing... will continue to escalate until our people's objectives are realized — that is, until the occupation is terminated and the independence and freedom of our people, territory and sacred places are realized."

This is a far cry from Arafat's letter to Rabin of last September 9 in which he promised that "The PLO commits itself to the Middle East peace process, and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and declares that all outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations."

On March 29 he said that six armed and masked Fatah Hawks killed by IDF soldiers were actually unarmed political activists murdered by the IDF — in concert with extremist Israeli settlers — who were trying "to destroy the chance for peace."

Arafat's comments are echoed elsewhere. "Every time we get close to one another, senior elements of the Israeli army commit a grave crime," declared Dr. Nabil Sha'ath, the chief PLO negotiator in Cairo on March 29.

"It is clear that there are people in the Israeli army who plan not only how to kill the cream of our youth but also how to kill the peace process," Sha'ath said. Arafat's Fatah group, using Arabic leaflets, then organized three "days of confrontation" in which clashes were instigated against Israelis. The Fatah newspaper *Al-Izzah*, published "underground" during the past two months, has declared that "the war continues" against Israel.

In his September letter to Rabin, Arafat also wrote: "The PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations and discipline violators."

After the murder of five Israelis on a bus in Hadera last week, Arafat told the Council of Europe in Strasbourg that he opposed terror by both sides, but this differs markedly from what he and other PLO leaders say to Arab audiences.

"What he said in Strasbourg sounded like a condemnation of terror attacks by both sides — as if there were some kind of symmetry," observed Professor Raphael Israeli of Hebrew University, an expert on the PLO. "But this was not a real condemnation."

"No Arab — certainly not Arafat — has said he was ashamed of the Afula attack or the Hadera attack, the way Rabin said he was ashamed of the Hebron attack [by Baruch Goldstein]," Israeli added. "I would like to see a condemnation by Arafat, but I don't expect it, because his voice is weak and even people from the PLO are cooperating with Hamas."

Arafat has steadfastly refused to directly condemn any terror attack on Jews, even when the perpetrators are well known and the circumstances unambiguous — as in the case of this month's Hamas attacks.

Indeed, Israeli and Arab intelligence sources report increasing cooperation between Hamas and members of Arafat's Fatah organization, while Arafat himself has stressed demands to have Israel release Hamas agents from jail.

Instead, Arafat has consistently condemned Israel for trying to curb the violence of the Fatah Hawks, who have been responsible for attacks in Gaza, Beit El and Jerusalem since the DOP was signed in September.

Arafat excoriated Israel for killing Ahmed Abu-Rish, a Hawk leader in Khan Yunis, on November 28, who was killed while meeting several armed and wanted Fatah Hawks who had continued terror attacks against Israelis and Palestinian "collaborators."

Another Fatah Hawk leader, Salim Muafi, who had killed several Israelis, was killed in a fire-fight with the IDF in Gaza in February. Arafat then also condemned Israel for the attack on Muafi, who was directly tied to the military wing of the Fatah — Al-Aksa — which Arafat controls and uses.

The PLO and Hamas have 'divided the labor' in continuing terror, Michael Widlanski writes

When Israeli officials — such as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres — expressed dismay with the PLO response — comments or lack of comments on response — to the murder of Israelis, the PLO response has been vehement.

"It is simply astonishing to hear words like these from the mouth of Foreign Minister Peres when he and Rabin did not express sorrow at all when the Israeli army killed six Fatah leaders in Jabalya," asserted Marwan Kanafeh, one of Arafat's senior advisors, after a meeting with Israelis in Cairo on April 7.

"Some press agencies have reported that Arafat and his people have condemned the Afula attack, but they didn't condemn," asserted a senior Israeli intelligence analyst. "There is no use of the word 'condemn' or 'criticize' in any of his [Arafat's] statements," said a senior IDF intelligence officer who monitors Palestinian affairs. "This is also true of Faisal Husseini," the officer added.

He noted that Arafat, in his comments in Arabic, had used the word *"asaf"* which means "sorry," but had refrained from using *"istinkar," "randid,"* or *"shajab,"* even to condemn the attack in general terms.

Even those comments, however, were made in a statement. Arafat has never appeared on radio or television to strongly condemn a terror attack in any language. In a statement released after the November murder of Haim Mizrahi by a unit of the Fatah organization, Arafat allowed "condemn" to be used in the reported statement. That statement, however, was only released after it was actively solicited by both Rabin and the Clinton administration.

"Arafat is afraid of Hamas," the senior IDF analyst said, noting that all PLO and Fatah statements have referred to the Afula attack as "mafiat" — killing — while using various Arabic terms for "massacre" for Baruch Goldstein's attack in Hebron.

"They could say we condemn what happened without being specific, but the most courageous thing would be to condemn the act and the perpetrators specifically — but they haven't done anything," the intelligence officer said.

Michael Widlanski edits the Middle East Page.

Tally of death: PLO-Hamas scorecard

"WE WILL not tolerate under any circumstances a division of labor between Hamas and the PLO," declared Prime Minister Rabin at Sunday's cabinet meeting.

But the results of terror attacks show that such a division of labor exists, with the PLO's Fatah faction and others continuing to execute small-scale assaults and murders, leaving bold mass-murder operations to Hamas.

Forty-nine Israelis have been killed in terror attacks since September 9, according to the independent monitoring group Peace Watch — six of them by Fatah: Haim Mizrahi, Yuval Golan, David Dadi, Haim Weizman, Isaac Rotenberg and Morris Eisenstadt.

The rest of the Israeli dead were from terror acts by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The PLO negotiating team in Cairo has made it clear that it is bargaining for the release of Hamas prisoners as well as Fatah agents convicted of crimes.

When the government's threat to Jordan concerning continued Hamas activity caught Jordanian officials by surprise, especially because Jordan is in the midst of restoring its presence in the territories — sometimes with Israeli support.

The most obvious example is a combination of Jordanian actions and statements concerning the holy places, particularly the completion of the Jordanian-financed restoration of the Dome of the Rock mosque.

Indeed, as the Oslo accords lose their luster, Jordan's position in the territories is getting stronger. It is increasingly obvious that opponents of the Declaration of Principles and Arafat's internal Palestinian opponents have come to regard Amman as a safe refuge.

Many members of the Executive Committee of the PLO who were summoned to Tunis to ratify the Cairo agreements preferred to stay in Amman rather than give Arafat a quorum of approval.

Amman has also been the locale for growing contacts between Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction and the communists, on the one hand, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by George Habash, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, whose leader is Na'if Hawatmeh.

Those talks have so far been unfruitful.

While Israel, suffering repeated civilian casualties in Hamas attacks, cannot abide Hamas statements from Amman, it has to be aware of the larger regional picture.

Harried Hussein sending policy distress signals

Threatening Jordan, which is in obvious panic over the DOP, plays into the hands of regional extremists, warns Pinhas Inbari

THE government's threat to Jordan concerning continued Hamas activity caught Jordanian officials by surprise, especially because Jordan is in the midst of restoring its presence in the territories — sometimes with Israeli support.

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US policy may push Turkey to radicals

YOHANAN RAMATI

THE period when Turkey regarded Israel as a regional power with many parallel interests seems to have ended. Indeed, even Turkey's future relations with the US may become seriously strained.

On November 20 last year, an agreement was initiated in Ankara between the head of the Syrian secret service and his Turkish counterpart. On December 1, this agreement was endorsed by the foreign ministries of the two states. Its terms are:

- Cooperation between Turkey and Syria will be improved immediately.
- Turkey will supply Syria's water requirements.
- Turkey and Syria will act together as regards the Kurdish problem.
- Turkey and Syria will cooperate against destructive activities threatening their national unity and their regimes.
- Turkey and Syria agree that Iraq's territorial integrity must be maintained.
- Turkey will help Syria against international initiatives aimed at Syria.
- Turkey will defend Syrian policy on Israel against Israel and the US.
- Turkey will support Syrian positions on Lebanon.
- Syria will help Turkey to prevent anti-Turkish activities from Syrian and Lebanese territory, helping to destroy the bases belonging to illegal bodies near its northern border and in the Bekaa valley. It will permit Turkish military activities against Kurds along the Syria-Turkey border, providing it is informed of them in advance.
- The two countries agree not to interfere in each other's internal affairs.
- Extradition agreements between the parties will be honored.
- Turkey will use friendly language in its announcements concerning Syria.
- Special arrangements along the Syria-Turkey border will assure cooperation between the armies of the two states and the execution of this agreement.
- The agreement will be submitted to the heads of state of Syria and Turkey for approval.

Thus the already powerful Syria-Iran-Pakistan axis may now be joined by Turkey. If this happens, Western influence in West Asia and the Middle East will be thoroughly undermined.

Inept US policy must be blamed for this course of events. Guided by preconceived notions and a heavy dose of naïveté, the US has been courting pro-Iranian Syria.

Assad came away from Geneva feeling that Clinton would back him on the Golan Heights and Lebanon, whether he maintained his ties with Iran or not. For the Turks, Geneva was more proof that Syria would be a more useful ally than Israel.

The US failed to help Turkey obtain admission to the European Economic Community. It then discouraged Turkey from cooperating with Russia in the former Soviet Moslem states, pushing Russia toward Iran and leaving Turkey no good option but to cooperate with Iran in order to maintain some influence there. It has sown the wind and it may reap the whirlwind.

Nor can the US show gains on the Arab side of the balance sheet. Of its friends, Egypt is increasingly unstable; Saudi Arabia has serious economic trouble, and the Hashemite regime in Jordan feels it is being deliberately undermined by US support for a PLO state west of the Jordan river.

All through the Arab world, anti-American sentiment is mounting. And the Arab-Israeli peace process, far from stabilizing the region, seems to be destabilizing it.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin might do well to ponder that, with Israel projecting an image of weakness, sending President Ezer Weizman to Turkey can't help.

The writer heads the Jerusalem Institute for Western Defense.

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

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Teddy Kollek (Davar, August 21, 1992)

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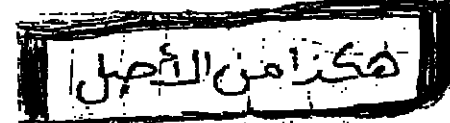
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20, 1994 The Jerusalem Post
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Pinhas Inbari

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THE government's candidates for
Israel Discount Bank's board of
directors were approved yesterday
at a general shareholders meeting.
The shareholders, headed by
chairman of the bank Gideon La-
hav, approved the appointment of
six new directors and the resigna-
tion of four members.
The government controls 87
percent of Discount Bank's shares.
The new directors are Shalom
Federman, deputy chairman of
Elite Industries and manager of
Yitzhak Federman and sons; Yosef
Toliman, previously managing
director of Frutarom and currently
adviser on industrial issues; and
Dr. Zafira Milsdorf.
The major shareholders also ap-
pointed Jacob Salomon, an econ-
omic adviser who previously was
manager of the Government Com-
panies Authority; Kibbutz Ha'ar-
zi's Ran Hackin, an economist
who manages companies and
serves on the board of directors
of several companies; and Menahem
Firn, previously an economic
adviser to the finance committee
and senior manager at Union Bank.
The new directors will replace
four directors to the bank's current

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1994

THE JERUSALEM
POST

BUSINESS & FINANCE

MKs consider limiting bank managers' salaries

EVELYN GORDON and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

KNESSET finance committee members said yesterday they are considering limiting bank managers' salaries in reaction to Bank Hapoalim's board of directors' decision this week to raise senior executives' salaries by 30 percent.

Knesset finance committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) said the committee may get involved in the issue.

"It's an issue that concerns us, but I haven't yet decided if we should intervene," said committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor).

MK Shlomo Buhbut (Labor), who is one of the MKs pushing for action from the committee, said he

has sent a formal request to Gal for a debate on the issue of executive salaries in public companies.

He cited the example of the managing director of Bank Mizrahi, who earns NIS 250,000 a month, he said.

"That's the equivalent of a factory with 30 workers!" he said.

Bank Hapoalim's chief executive officer Amiram Sivan was given a bonus and a 50% salary hike to NIS 600,000 from NIS 397,000.

Emanuel Sharon, Hapoalim's board chairman, was given a special bonus of NIS 150,000. The board adjusted his future salary in line with senior executives in the

Committee gives approval for Lapidot's privatization

Sale of Government Medals and Coins Corp. canceled

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE cabinet privatization committee yesterday approved the privatization of Lapidot-Israel Oil Exploration Corporation and canceled its decision to privatize the Government Medals and Coins Corporation, the Treasury reported.

The committee decided to proceed with the government's 99 percent stake in Lapidot, which will be done in two stages.

In the first stage the government will reduce its holdings to a minimum of 51% of the company's

shares, selling the remainder in the second stage.

The shares will be sold to the public during the year through the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange as shares or warrants, or both.

The committee reversed itself on selling the Government Medals and Coins Corporation based on a professional opinion prepared at the Government Companies Authority's request.

The committee's reversal was due to the conditions prevailing in the minting industry throughout the world and the rigid controls the Bank of Israel would impose on the company.

Instead, the authority, in consultation with the company's board of directors, will take special actions to improve the firm's business efficiency.

Authority director-general Yossi Nitzani reported to the committee on the recent sale of Beit Shemesh Engines to Ormat and Malam System to Clal Computers and on the publication of tenders to sell the controlling stake in Shemkem and Israel Shipyards.

Nitzani also told the committee that the authority is waiting for issues surrounding Bezek's recently published general license to be resolved so its privatization can proceed.

UPDATED PURCHASE TAX BRACKETS FOR DWELLINGS AND AGRICULTURAL LAND

January 16 - April 15	%	April 16 - July 15	%
Dwellings			
Up to NIS 147,035	0.5	Up to NIS 158,870	0.5
NIS 147,036 - NIS 364,380	3.5	NIS 158,871 - NIS 393,700	3.5
Over NIS 364,380	4.5	Over NIS 393,700	4.5
Agricultural lands			
Up to NIS 112,485	0.5	Up to NIS 121,540	0.5
Over NIS 112,485	5.0	Over NIS 121,540	5.0

The new purchase tax brackets effective April 16, 1994, were adjusted 8.06% to reflect the price increase of dwellings.

Discount shareholders approve candidates for board of directors

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE government's candidates for Israel Discount Bank's board of directors were approved yesterday at a general shareholders meeting.

The shareholders, headed by chairman of the bank Gideon Lahav, approved the appointment of six new directors and the resignation of four members.

The government controls 87 percent of Discount Bank's shares.

The new directors are Shalom Federman, deputy chairman of Elite Industries and manager of Yitzhak Federman and sons; Yosef Toliman, previously managing director of Frutarom and currently adviser on industrial issues; and Dr. Zafira Milsdorf.

The major shareholders also appointed Jacob Salomon, an economic adviser who previously was manager of the Government Companies Authority; Kibbutz Ha'arzi's Ran Hackin, an economist who manages companies and serves on the board of directors of several companies; and Menahem Firn, previously an economic adviser to the finance committee and senior manager at Union Bank.

The new directors will replace four directors to the bank's current

Industrialists ask central bank to lower interest rates by 1%

JOSE ROSENFELD

INDUSTRIALISTS called on the Bank of Israel to lower interest rates by one percent yesterday, as the central bank continued hinting it might raise rates to curb inflation.

The 1% jump in March's Consumer Price Index has made the business community jittery that the Bank of Israel will react by raising interest rates next month.

Senior bank officials are scheduled to meet next week to determine the monetary program, including interest rates, for next month.

Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper called on the central bank to lower interest rates by 1%. He noted that despite March's high index, underlying inflation - when discounting housing and seasonal factors - remains at an annual rate of 7%.

Based on underlying inflation, the current rate of 10.5% on loans to the commercial banks is high, according to Propper.

Propper said high rates are a threat to the economy.

"We are demanding lower [interest rates], because high rates immediately slow down the economy, stop growth and contribute to higher unemployment, a thing which we don't need," he said.

Propper said high rates have caused the shekel to be overvalued against foreign currencies by



Propper: High rates a threat to the economy. (Israel Malovni)

He also fears the closure-induced slowdown will further exacerbate the situation.

The Bank of Israel issued an official response to Propper's statement, defending its tight monetary policy and attacking its detractors' narrow interests.

The statement emphasized the importance of curbing inflation and stabilizing the economy to achieve long-lasting economic growth.

"In establishing its monetary policy, the Bank of Israel is constantly evaluating the impact of the recent rise in prices, as well as other economic developments, in terms of the ability to reach the economic goals as set by the government," the bank said.

The statement further rejected Propper's exclusion of housing prices in calculating inflation.

"The overall monetary policy must take into consideration the exceptional and continuing rise of housing prices," the bank said. "It is important to remember that the inflation goal the government set relates to the developments of prices as a whole, including the element of housing prices."

The statement also criticized Propper for representing narrow, sectoral, short-term interests, unlike the Bank of Israel - whose monetary and exchange rate policy are set based on the good of the economy as a whole from a long-term perspective.

Land expropriated to expand airport

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE government will expropriate 4,822 dunams in the area surrounding Ben-Gurion Airport, the Treasury reported yesterday.

The government said the move is necessary to carry out a \$500 million expansion plan to accommodate an expected upswing in passenger and cargo traffic as a result of the peace accord.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat signed a notice on Monday. The cabinet approved the project in mid-January.

The expropriated lands will be used to accommodate a new passenger terminal, the development of a cargo and service area, the extension of runways and the construction of new roads and railroad tracks.

Following Shohat's notice, the government will hold a hearing with those whose lands are affected. The expropriation will then be implemented by the Israel Lands Authority.

Bill to improve trustees' supervision of mutual funds reaches finance committee

EVELYN GORDON

A BILL which would strengthen the trustee's obligation to supervise mutual funds was discussed for the first time yesterday in the Knesset finance committee.

Although such supervision in theory exists already, in practice, the trustees are often mere rubber stamps, committee members said.

The bill is an update of the 1961 mutual funds law, which has remained basically unchanged since it was passed, despite the dramatic

changes which have occurred in the capital market since then.

The bill would enable a variety of sanctions to be imposed on a trustee who fails to do his job properly, ranging from fines levied by the Securities Authority to the possibility of a class-action suit.

The bill also requires fund managers to participate in the shareholders' meetings of companies in which their funds hold stock.

"[The bill] institutes very close supervision of managers' behavior," said MK Eli Goldschmidt (Labor), explaining why he considers it important.

MK Haim Oron (Meretz) added that reform of this sector is crucial, because it comprises one-third of the capital market, representing tens of millions of shekels worth of investments.

Supreme Court lowers statute of limitations in insurance claim cases

THERE is a three-year statute of limitations on an insured's requests for payment from an insurance company, as opposed to the general seven-year statute of limitations, the Supreme Court ruled recently.

The ruling, written by Justice Theodore Orr, put an end to a longstanding judicial dispute over the interpretation of Section 31 of the Insurance Contracts Law of 1981.

The court followed a May 1992 ruling by Judge Gideon Gintal of Nazareth District Court, who showed that the purpose of the disputed section was to reduce the statute of limitations in cases of suits by an insured against an insurer.

A minority of judicial opinions had held that the section in question had merely set a maximum limit for an insured to file suit against an insurer, and did not affect the general statute of limitations.

The Supreme Court ruling denied an appeal by the Arye Insurance Co. against a decision by Nahariya Magistrates Court, later upheld by Haifa District Court, and overturned Tel Aviv District Court's decision in the case of Robert Danino v Menora Insurance Co.

Telephone cost expected to fall

JUDY SIEGEL

CELLULAR phone use will soon become considerably cheaper, if the Knesset finance committee approves a Communications Ministry-sponsored amendment. The committee's approval is expected soon for the change - under which telephone owners will pay only for calls they make and not for incoming calls.

The amendment, prepared by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, is expected to increase the use of cellular phones. So will the introduction of competition from a second entrepreneur.

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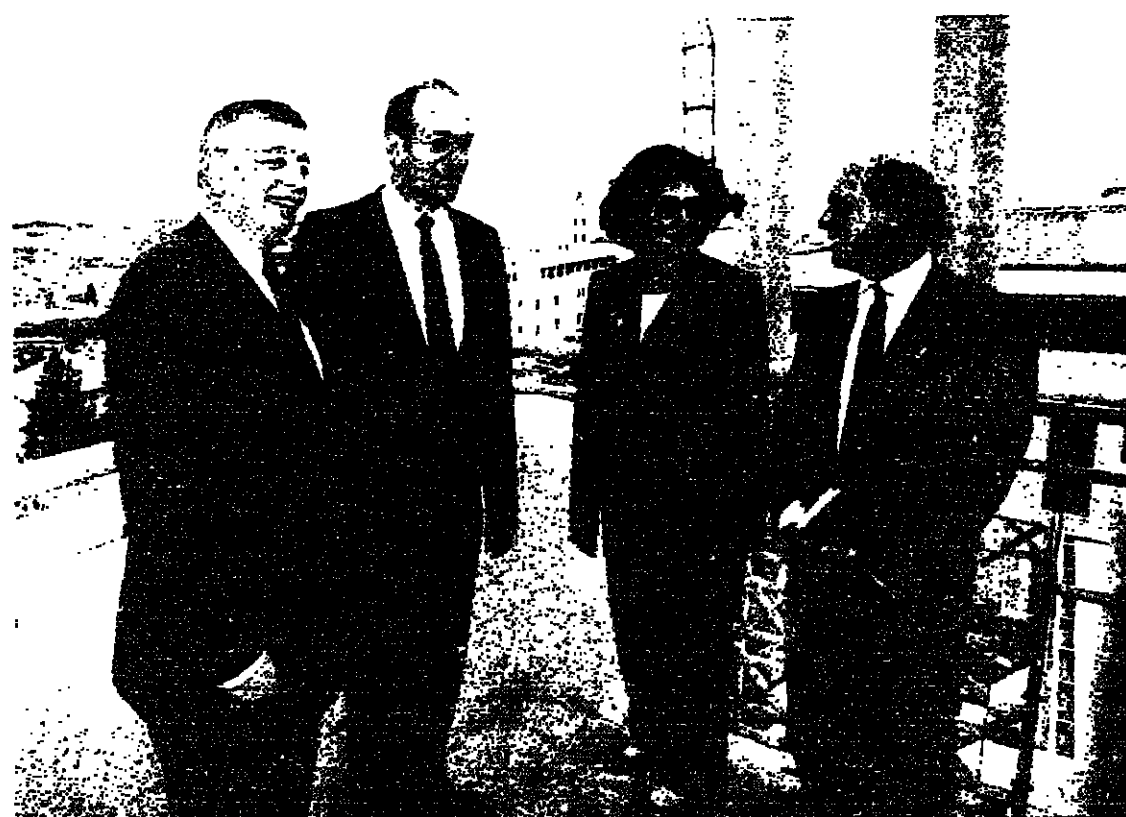
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U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.250	3.625	4.250	
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.500	3.625	4.000	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.625	4.500	4.375	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	2.875	2.875	
Yen (10 million yen)	0.825	0.750	1.000	

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (19.4.94)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Rep.
Current basket	3.1970	3.2420	—	3.2154
U.S. dollar	2.9663	3.0081	2.91	3.06
German mark	1.7443	1.7885	1.71	1.7493
Pound sterling	4.3793	4.4413	4.29	4.40
French franc	0.5087	0.5159	0.49	0.5106
Japanese yen (100)	2.8936	2.9233	2.83	2.8969
Dutch florin	1.5546	1.5786	1.53	1.5582
Swiss franc	2.0556	2.0848	2.03	2.11
Swedish krona	0.3738	0.3791	0.37	0.3778
Norwegian krona	0.4014	0.4071	0.39	0.4032
Danish krona	0.4444	0.4507	0.44	0.4460
Finnish mark	0.5378	0.5454	0.53	0.5433
Canadian dollar	2.1356	2.1657	2.10	2.1620
Australian dollar	2.1179	2.1478	2.07	2.1380
S. African rand	0.0214	0.0230	0.021	0.0232
Belgian franc (10)	0.9475	0.9595	0.93	0.9485
Austrian schilling (10)	2.4793	2.5158	2.43	2.4873
Italian lire (1000)	1.9240	1.9487	1.78	1.8293
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.10	4.181
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.85	0.8964
ECU	3.2481	3.2457	—	3.2811
Irish punt	4.2773	4.3377	4.18	4.244
Spanish peseta (100)	2.1324	2.1635	2.07	2.128

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



FEARSOME FOURSOME - NBA commissioner David Stern (l) enjoys a panoramic view of Jerusalem with Mayor Ehud Olmert (2nd from left), Diane Stern and senior executive vice president Harvey Benjamin. (Efraim Kilshoch)

NBA boss gets capital welcome

JOE HOFFMAN

FULFILLING a promise to come to Israel when the Final Four is held here, NBA commissioner David Stern was greeted yesterday in the capital by President Ezer Weizman, Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert and Zionist Forum chairman Natan Sharansky.

After a lightning visit at Beit Hanasi, Stern was hosted by Olmert at the new municipal building. Also on the welcoming committee were former Maccabi Tel Aviv and goodwill ambassador Tal Brody and Betar Jerusalem soccer star Eli Ohana.

Stern expressed his pleasure at being in "the most beautiful and special city in the world" and was particularly delighted at the accomplishments of Haapoel Jerusalem, currently in the semifinals of the National League crown, and Maccabi Jerusalem which will be promoted to the National League in the coming season.

Stern also promised that the NBA will play some part in Jerusalem's 3000th anniversary in 1996.

Stern then attended an awards ceremony at the Zionist Forum for Soviet Jewry, which, through the

generosity of James Wolfensohn, is awarding six stipends to outstanding immigrant athletes. Each will receive NIS 600 for six months to help with the costs of absorption, specialized training and athletic equipment.

Sharansky distributed the prizes to Andrei Geva (28), four-time national fencing champion; Dennis Holey (18), pole vaulter who holds the national youth record with a 5.01m mark; Eli Petam (17) chess player who finished second in last year's national championships; Irena Grishtat (11) national tennis champion in the 12- and 14-year-old categories; Helena Zoyav (16) national fencing champion in the 15-17-year-old group and Yossi Granovskii (21) basketball player for Haapoel Jerusalem.

Accompanying Stern and his wife Diane were NBA senior executive vice president Harvey Benjamin, vice president for international public relations Terry Lyons, director of international events Kim Bohuny and public relations manager for NBA Europe Ray Lalonde.

Nat'l soccer team readies for Lithuania

DEREK FATTAL

ISRAEL'S national soccer team continued preparations yesterday for today's match against Lithuania in Vilnius. The friendly meeting has attracted wide media interest there and will be broadcast live on local TV.

The match brings together two sides keen to do well in the forthcoming qualifiers for the European Nations' Cup competition. Both teams are seeded fourth in their respective groups, so the match should be an even contest.

Maccabi Herzliya's Ukrainian international Vasilev Sokristov traveled with the Israelis and is likely to do battle against his fellow-league players.

The Olympic squad (under-21s) is also in action this afternoon.

On Monday, the National and Olympic squads paid a poignant visit to the Jewish Museum in Vilnius which is dedicated to the memory of the 240,000 pre-war community of Lithuania. Over 220,000 of the country's Jews perished in the Holocaust.

With the match taking place on the anniversary of Hitler's birth, the local police have taken steps to ensure that the game is not disrupted by neo-Nazi elements.

On a lighter note, the Israeli players changed hotels on Monday night after experiencing problems with their original lodgings.

Many players, complaining that the beds were too short, suffered from disrupted sleep. This may give the Israel Football Association cause to rethink its decision earlier this year to reduce the level of the squad's hotel accommodation in an effort to curb rising expenses.

San Jose triumphs in NHL playoff debut

DETROIT (AP) - The San Jose Sharks are the only team in the NHL playoffs with a losing record. Just don't tell the Detroit Red Wings.

Vlastimil Kroupa's goal at 15:36 of the third period Monday night made San Jose's playoff debut a success as the Sharks edged Detroit 5-4. It also was the first time San Jose has won at Detroit.

The Sharks, in the franchise's third year, jumped out to a 3-0 first-period lead, including Shawn Cronin's first NHL goal in more than a year.

The Red Wings, who scored 104 goals more than the Sharks during the season, scored twice in the second period to close the gap to 3-2. The teams were tied 3-3 and 4-4

before Kroupa, on a feed from Todd Elik, wristed a shot under the glove of Bob Essensa for the winner.

In other playoff games Monday, the New York Rangers once again routed the New York Islanders by the same score of 6-0. Montreal beat Boston 3-2. Toronto defeated Chicago 5-1 and Vancouver blanked Calgary 5-0.

PLAYOFF GLANCE
(Best-of-7 Series)
Dallas 5, St. Louis 3 (Dallas leads 1-0)
Washington 5, Pittsburgh 3 (Washington leads 1-0)
Buffalo 2, New Jersey 0 (Buffalo leads 1-0)
NY Rangers 6, NY Islanders 0 (Rangers leads 2-0)
Montreal 3, Boston 2 (series tied 1-1)
San Jose 5, Detroit 4 (San Jose leads 1-0)
Toronto 5, Chicago 1 (Toronto leads 1-0)
Vancouver 5, Calgary 0 (Vancouver leads 1-0)

US marathon mark should fall

BOSTON (AP) - The American men's marathon record stood for 12 years before Bob Kempainen broke it. It doesn't figure to last that long now.

"I think there's better racing for Americans as a whole ahead of us," said the 27-year-old Kempainen on Monday after slicing five seconds off the US record with a time of 2:08:47 in the Boston Marathon.

Despite the impressive performance, Kempainen placed only seventh, as Cosmas Ndeti of Kenya won for the second consecutive year, in 2:07:15, the fastest ever in the 98-year history of the race and the fifth-fastest marathon ever.

"If somebody had told me I ran the time I did today, I think I would have won the race or been close, but I finished seventh," said Kempainen, the 17th-place finisher at the 1992 Olympics and the runner-up at the New York City Marathon last November.

The outstanding field of runners, including 1992 Olympic champion Hwang Young-Jo of Korea and 1993 New York City Marathon winner Andres Espinosa of Mexico, was blessed with a tailwind of 19 mph. The temperature also was ideal. When the race began at noon, it was a pleasant 45°, and it rose only into the mid-50s during the 26-mile, 385-yard grind through eight towns, ending in downtown Boston.

Meanwhile, five over-40 Israelis participated in the London Marathon on Sunday. They are Brian Braude, Gordon Bloch, Arthur Lipschitz, Max Moss and Ido Sheffer, all from the Ra'anana Road Runners.

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

THE Final Four got down to the Final Two at Yad Eliyahu last night, as Olympiakos Piraeus and Joventut Badalona advanced to tomorrow night's European Club Championship final. Olympiakos defeated Panathinaikos Athens 77-72, and Badalona won out over Barcelona, 79-65.

Several hundred of Tel Aviv's Finest worked overtime to control the 3,000 crazed Greek fans. Bedecked in red and white for Olympiakos, and in green and white for Panathinaikos, they showed up two hours before game time, apparently no worse for wear for their respective 44- and 60-hour ferry rides to get here.

After exchanges about each other's mothers and related pleasantries, they proceeded to raise a din that would have awakened Zeus himself.

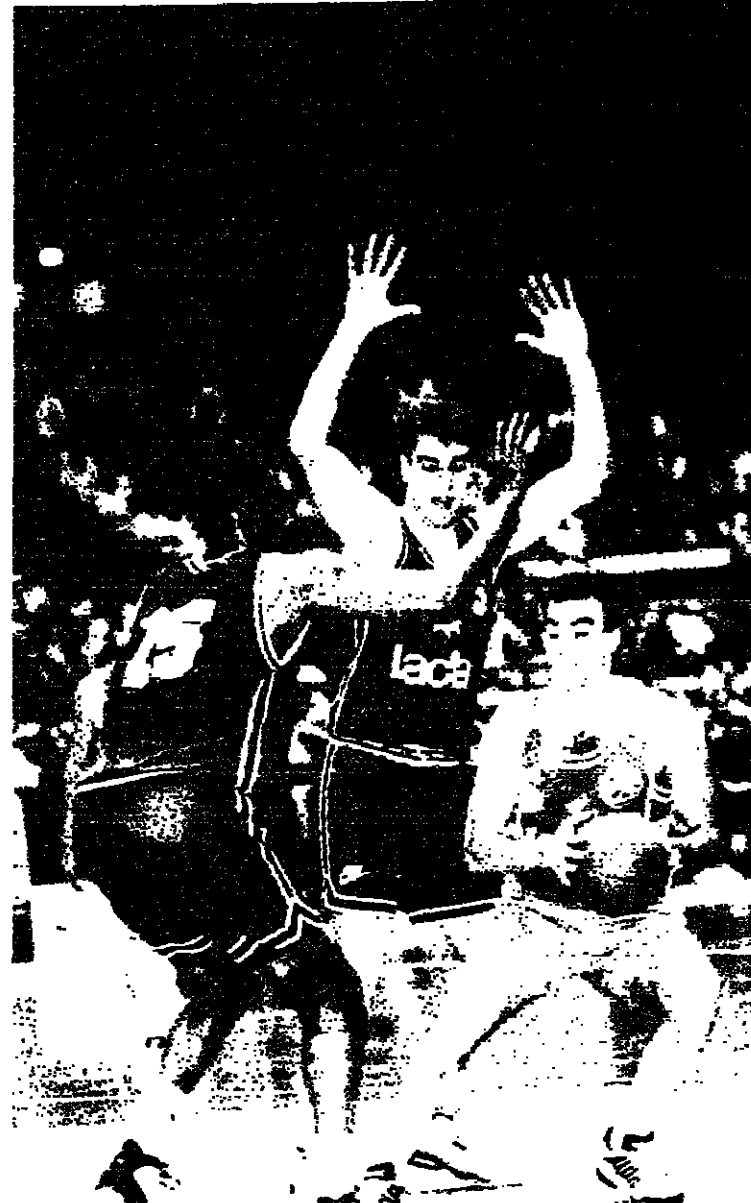
With both squads displaying an initial bad case of nerves, the game got off to a sluggish start. But led by their Killer V's, former Atlanta Hawks' Alexander Volkov (14 first-half points) on offense, and former Boston Celtics' Stojan Vrankovich on defense (two blocked shots), Panathinaikos opened up the biggest lead of the half, 23-17, with just under 10 minutes to play.

Almost invisible until then, Olympiakos' Roy Tarpley, perhaps with an eye to impressing the Dallas Mavericks, to whom he will return after a one-year suspension by the NBA for drug use, turned it on to bring his club back into the game.

Aided by Greek national team captain Panayotis Fassoulas (11 first-half points), Olympiakos fought back, finally asserting its height advantage under the basket. Fassoulas and Tarpley led Olympiakos to a brief 36-33 lead with 42 seconds left in the half, before a three-pointer by Nikolas Ekonomou tied it at 36 at halftime.

Panathinaikos' team emblem features a shamrock, and in the opening minutes of the second half, it looked like the luck of the Irish and Volkov's offense would keep them in the game.

But then Niki Galis' team saw the dramatic standoff turn into a



HERMETICALLY SEALED - Olympiakos defenders Roy Tarpley (15) and George Sigalas shut down Panathinaikos' Niki Galis, limiting the mercurial guard to just eight points. (Hanoach Guthmann)

Greek tragedy as far as they were concerned. Leading 41-40, they watched Tarpley, Fassoulas and former San Antonio Spurs' Zarko Paspali race up and down the court, and the resulting 15-0 run took all the fight out of Panathinaikos.

Volkov proved that wrong, however, driving through Olympiakos' players for 18 second-half points (32 on the night). Galis &

Co. crept back to within 63-60 with just over 5 minutes left, but Tarpley's drive and wild hook-shot that somehow found the hoop, pushed the lead back to eight, and not even Volkov's end-of-game heroics could save his club, and send Galis to his first final.

For Olympiakos, Tarpley had 21 points and 16 rebounds, while Paspali had 22 and George Sigalas 15 to go with a fine defensive job

on Galis, limited to eight points. Stojan Vrankovic managed 11.

Not a drachma landed on the court, and the Greek fans, to their credit and contrary to their reputation, limited themselves to sportsmanlike cheering.

No one in the crowd could have expected the wild turnaround in the second game, which saw Joventut Badalona surprise Barcelona 79-65 after trailing 36-31 at halftime.

With Israeli referee Reuven Virovnick officiating, the second game opened with Barcelona's patient offense finding the open man, and it appeared they were well on their way to a finals berth.

But before they knew what hit them, Joventut Badalona took all the fizz out of Barcelona's offense, and the Badalona Bombers, Tomas Jofresa (21 points, four three-pointers) and Jordi Villacampa (20, with three 3's) lit up the arena with a devastating long-range shooting exhibition (8-14) that simply blasted Barcelona away, leaving Juan Antonio San Epifanio (23) as disappointed as fellow European legend Galis in his bid for a place in the final.

Badalona's Jofresa was particularly impressive, hitting a pair of threes to bring his team back. While the Greek Chorus continued during the second game, Badalona showed a ton of class to turn the tide in a game Barcelona fans will want to forget as quickly as possible.

In the early going, both clubs looked crisp on offense but a 7-0 spurt by Barcelona led by San Epifanio, playing in his fourth Final Four, coupled with three's by Jose Montero and former Boston Celtics/Milwaukee Bucks Fred Roberts, gave Croatian coach Denko Radic's team a commanding lead.

Barcelona played more patiently, finding the open man and hitting its shots at a 57.5 percent rate, including three of seven from three-point land. They simply played better team ball and clearly deserved their 36-31 halftime surge.

With the Greek civil war over, it remains to be seen what will happen tomorrow night when Ulysses goes up against the Spanish Armada.

Bulls stop Hawks, stay in thick of race

CHICAGO (Reuters) - The Bulls blew a 22-point lead but regrouped in time to post an 87-70 win over the Atlanta Hawks on Monday to

2nd Feb 5 to enter draft

Juwan Howard became the second of the Feb Five to leave Michigan before graduating. Howard, following Chris Webber last year, announced Monday that he will pass up his senior season with the Wolverines and enter the NBA draft.

stay in the running for the Eastern Conference championship.

Steve Kerr hit two key three-pointers in a decisive third-quarter

run that carried the Bulls (55-25) to victory and moved them within a half-game of the Hawks (55-24) for the best record in the conference.

Horace Grant and Steve Kerr each had 14 points and Scottie Pippen added 13 for Chicago, winners of 11 of their last 12.

Danny Manning had 16 points and Stacey Augmon and Craig Ehlo each chipped in with 12 for Atlanta, who were held to a season-low 70 points.

After being stymied by a 17-0 Bulls' charge in the first half, Atlanta outscored Chicago 24-5 in a

span bridging the second and third quarters and tied the game 51-51.

Kerr and Toni Kukoc helped rally Chicago, who used a 12-2 run to rebuild their lead to 63-55 by the end of the quarter.

Sans 106, Mavericks 97 Charles Barkley had 28 points and 13 rebounds and sparked a late fourth-quarter rally as Phoenix won on the road.

Kevin Johnson added 21 points and 14 assists and AC Green chipped in with 19 points and 14 rebounds for Phoenix, who won their fourth straight and moved into a third-place tie with San Antonio in the Western Conference playoff race.

Jim Jackson scored 30 points and Jamal Mashburn netted 29 for the Mavs, who were a dismal 14-64 from the field in the second half.

Phoenix led by just 90-87 at 4:42 remaining, but used an 8-1 run over the next 3:09 for a 10-point advantage, 98-88.

Warriors 134, Clippers 131 Chris Mullin scored a season-high 32 points and Mister Jennings sank six free throws in the final 1:16 of overtime to lift host Golden State to their sixth straight victory.

MONDAY'S RESULTS:
Chicago 87, Atlanta 70
Phoenix 106, Dallas 97
Golden State 134, LA Clippers 131 (OT)

Atlanta takes out patent on 1st-inning HRs

ATLANTA - Ryan Klesko, Fred McGriff and David Justice hit consecutive home runs in the first inning and the Atlanta Braves beat the St. Louis Cardinals 7-1 Monday night for their sixth straight win and 13th victory in 14 games.

The Braves hit three straight homers in the opening inning for the second time in four days. McGriff, Terry Pendleton and Tony Tarasco did it Friday during a 19-5 rout in Chicago.

Steve Avery (1-0) pitched six strong innings. The left-hander allowed two hits, one run, walked three and struck out four.

This is Atlanta's best start since going 13-0 to open the 1982 season. The Braves, who won the NL West last season, didn't record their 13th win last year until May 2, making them 13-14.

The Braves quickly got to Rick Sutcliffe (1-1). Deion Sanders drew a leadoff walk and, after Jeff Blauser struck out, Klesko and McGriff and Justice all hit home runs of more than 400 feet.

Marlin 5, Rockies 3 Jeff Conine's two-run double capped a three-run rally in the top of the ninth inning against Colorado closer Darren Holmes.

The loss ended Colorado's four-game winning streak. Holmes (0-2), who relieved to start the ninth, has blown three of four save chances.

Luis Aquino (1-0) was the winner and Bryan Harvey got his fourth save in four tries.

Phillies 5, Dodgers 4 Jim Eisenreich's infield single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth drove in the winning run.

John Kruk opened the ninth with a single and advanced when Gary Wayne (0-2) made an errant throw to

second on Dave Hollins' grounder. Darren Daulton grounded into a double play, putting Kruk on third.

Eisenreich hit a slow grounder just past Wayne's glove, and second baseman Delino DeShields fielded the ball but threw too late to get Eisenreich. Doug Jones (1-0) pitched the ninth for the victory. He retired Mike Piazza, who hit a three-run homer in the seventh, with runners on first and third to end the inning.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
White Sox 12, Red Sox 1

Tim Lincecum hit three homers and Wilson Alvarez (3-0) won his 11th straight decision after taking a no-hitter into the sixth inning as Chicago won at Fenway Park.

Raines hit solo homers leading off the first and third innings and a two-run drive in the eighth. He also walked, singled and reached on an error in the ninth. Raines scored five runs and drove in four.

Alvarez (3-0) allowed one run and

four hits in six-plus innings. Danny Darwin (3-1) gave up eight runs and seven hits in 6 2/3 innings.

Royals 11, Tigers 1 Gary Gaetti singled to highlight a six-run first inning and later hit his first homer of the season.

Tom Gordon (1-1) pitched the Royals to their fifth straight victory. The Tigers have lost four of five.

Kansas City combined five singles, one walk and an error in the opening inning. Gaetti's two-run single made it 4-0 and chased John Doherty (1-2) with one out.

Gaetti hit a solo homer to the opposite field in the seventh off Joe Boever. Greg Gagne got his 1,000th career hit

MONDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Atlanta 7, St. Louis 1
Philadelphia 5, Los Angeles 4
Florida 5, Colorado 3
San Diego 6, New York 3
San Francisco 2, Montreal 1 (11)
MONDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Chicago 12, Boston 1
Kansas City 11, Detroit 1

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Labor leaders: Ramon trying to topple party

LABOR leaders yesterday took off their gloves and set the tone for the party's Histadrut campaign, accusing MK Haim Ramon, who has formed his own election list, of trying to topple the Labor Party.

In a forceful attack at yesterday's central committee meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin accused Ramon of setting up his own list, not out of concern for the workers' welfare, but with the hope of forming a new party to undermine and topple Labor.

But Rabin's main target was what he called the "unholy alliance" between Shas and Meretz, given the many near-crises initiated by Shas over Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni.

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

"How idyllic. Shula and Aryeh [Deri] have become bosom buddies," Rabin said, to the applause and laughter of the audience.

"Friends, for almost a year, my main problem in preserving the coalition was how to overcome Shas's arguments and complaints against Shula. All of a sudden - an idyll. And you ask yourself: What happened? Did the problems of the workers, including low wages, pensions and unemployment bring them together? No. This is an unholy alliance whose purpose is outside the Histadrut."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres also spoke of Ramon's intention to set up a new party intended to conquer the center of the political

map, and warned that the real battle would begin after next month's Histadrut elections.

"What is happening now is a move to mobilize all those who hate the Histadrut and want to destroy it, in order to effect a thorough political change in the system. While Haberfeld and Labor always knew how to protect the workers and at the same time protect the state, Ramon and his colleagues' sole purpose is to break down both the Histadrut and the state," Peres said.

In response to Rabin's remarks, Aloni said, "I suggest that the Labor Party calm down, because later they will need to form a coalition with us. The alliance between Ramon, Shas and Meretz in the Histadrut will be very successful."

Labor list gets in under the gun

LAST-MINUTE demands raised by Yit'ud and the Democratic Arab Party, the Labor Party's Histadrut partners, caused a delay in the presentation of Labor's list to the Histadrut general elections committee last night.

A few minutes before the 10 p.m. deadline the differences were resolved and the list was presented to elections committee chairman retired Judge Shaul Aloni.

Yit'ud's MK Esther Salomovitz, who had been placed fifth on the list, insisted on a better slot, and was finally raised to fourth place, making Labor's list the only one with two women in the opening four. The differences with DAP were also resolved, although the party does not have a representative in the first 10 slots.

Aiming to effect fundamental changes in the Histadrut, Labor placed leading union heads, work-

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

ers representatives, women and young people in the first 50 slots on its list, pushing the functionaries to the lower places. It was also the first time that Labor's candidate for Na'amat secretary-general was placed second, after the party's candidate for Histadrut secretary-general, Haim Haberfeld.

Third on the list is Israel Electric Corporation union chairman Yoram Obrakovitz. The opening 10 also include the leaders of the unions of Kupat Holim, Israel Aircraft Industries, the clerks in the public sector, seamen, and pensioners. Today the Labor Party has 56% of the mandates in the Histadrut convention.

The Likud-Tsomet list, today consisting of 28% in the Histadrut convention, is led by Likud MK

Ya'akov Shamai, who is followed by Tsomet MK Moshe Peled, Eitan Sulami (Likud), Moshe Cohen (Likud) and Binyamin Argaman (Tsomet). Union leaders including the seamen, Bezak and Egged, as well as two women are among the opening 10. Na'amat secretary-general candidate Rivka Bar-Lev is in the seventh slot.

Ramon's list with Meretz and Shas consists of several MKs and two women - MK Anat Maor (Mapam) who is also candidate for Na'amat secretary-general, and Ruth Resnik - in its opening 10 slots. The first five slots are for Ramon, MK Haim Oron, MK Amir Peretz, MK Ran Cohen and David Tal (Shas).

The Joint (Arab and Jewish) List, consisting of Hadash and the Progressive List for Peace, is headed by veteran Histadrut activist Binyamin Gonen.



Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld (from left), Justice Minister David Liba'i, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin attend yesterday's Labor Party central committee meeting. (Ha'aretz)

Panel to work on health bill compromise

EVELYN GORDON and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Knesset labor and social affairs committee will begin work next week on a compromise version of the national health insurance bill, coalition chairman Eli Dayan (Labor) announced yesterday.

Dayan said the committee, headed by MK Amir Peretz, would seek to find a majority to support the compromise proposal worked out by Aryeh Deri (Shas), and would then bring the bill to the plenum for a second and third reading.

Yesterday afternoon, Histadrut

Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld announced he would accept the compromise being formulated by the party.

The compromise falls short of what the Histadrut had originally wanted, since it does not require members of Kupat Holim Clalit to join the Histadrut. Labor's proposal suggests giving Kupat Holim members the option of joining the Histadrut.

However, it seems likely to meet the labor federation's de-

mand that fee collection be split 50-50 between the health funds and the National Insurance Institute, since it leaves determination of the fee collection mechanism to acting health minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

It is also possible, however, that the two ministers will adopt Shohat's proposal for resolving the fee collection dispute: letting the NII do all the collection, but levying an additional 0.8% tax which

the funds can use at their discretion.

If the two ministers do not reach an agreement within four months, the compromise proposal states, the NII will be responsible for all fee collections, as originally proposed by former health minister Haim Ramon.

The new proposal appears to have a good chance of passing, since many MKs who opposed the Histadrut-dictated version of the bill, such as those from Shas, will probably support the Deri plan.

New police chief now has to deal with Uzi Meshulam

ONE of the most pressing tasks facing incoming police inspector-general Assaf Hefetz is self-styled rabbi Uzi Meshulam who, together with around 100 armed supporters, is still holed up in his Yehud house.

Since Meshulam declared an agreement reached with police during Pessah was null and void, he has turned his home into a fortress and is provisioning

it for a siege. The house and garden in the formerly quiet residential area are surrounded by oil drums, some empty and others filled with sand.

A large tent houses supporters and is packed with bags of clothing. Meshulam, armed with a pistol, does not stray out of the house without at least one guard, armed with an M-16 assault rifle. Two

RAINE MARCUS

followers film anyone coming near the house, and according to neighbors "have created a state within a state."

Meshulam claims the GSS, police, and Mossad want to kill him because they were involved with the disappearance of Yemenite children 50 years ago.

His followers claim that police

snipers and detectives are stationed on every rooftop and in apartments in the area, but while police are apparently gathering intelligence information, their presence is not visible.

"If the police want to use my house as a base for a shoot-out, they are most welcome," said Michael, a local resident.

Neighborhood residents, who meet daily, have written letters of

protest to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, Police Minister Moshe Shaleh, Inspector-General Rafi Peled, and others.

"Elderly people and children are constantly afraid," said resident Sefi Perlberg. "We are afraid that a political solution will be reached, and then this madman will really impose a reign of terror here. He is totally unpredictable."

Border policemen charged with brutality

RAINE MARCUS

THREE border policemen, who allegedly beat a Nabulus resident with clubs and kicked him in the face and body before dumping him in a pit, were charged in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday with causing grievous bodily harm.

Yehiel Shitreet, Haim Hugi, and Yehoshua Shakaruka were released on bail after their lawyer argued they were not a danger to the public.

According to charge sheet, the three stopped Ahmed Janjarra in the Tel Aviv area and demanded to see his identity card. Ordering him to stand against a wall, they beat him about his face and body, while searching him, then cuffed

his hands behind his back and told him to get into their jeep.

"Now we will show you what the Border Police are made of," one of the three reportedly said, telling Janjarra to put his head down "to degrade him" and so he could not identify their destination.

In the jeep, the three allegedly beat him with their hands and with clubs. They drove to Holon's industrial zone, where they threw him into a pit, telling him that he was in Ashdod.

While in the pit, they continued to beat and kick him, and stole his wallet containing some NIS 3,000. Two of Janjarra's ribs were broken.

Road transport board threatens to strike

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Israel Road Transport Board, which represents most of the country's truckers, in Israel, is threatening to stop loading and unloading goods at the Haifa and Ashdod ports unless irregularities at the Ashdod-Port are corrected.

The board held a press conference in Ashdod yesterday, charging the Ashdod port with preventing a normal work pace by insisting on having only one crane loading and unloading at a time, until it has completed its quota for that day.

Until it does, hundreds of trucks wait outside the port gates, sometimes for the entire work day, although there are many other cranes which could service the rest of the trucks simultaneously.

This causes a back-up not only of trucks but of ships. During the Pessah holidays for instance, more than 30 ships were queued up waiting to be unloaded, board officials complained.

"This is complete anarchy, a celebration of inefficiency, irregularities, irresponsibility and lack of control of what goes on in the port," said Transport Board co-director

Menashe Hadad. He and co-director Gadi Ben-Harush charged that the management of the Ashdod Port discriminates against trucks, which are responsible for transporting 95% of Israel's land cargo.

When a ship or train arrives at the port, the port workers stop all services to the trucks, the two complained.

They don't give the trucks entry permits to the port, and also stop their work several times during the day, during breakfast and lunch breaks and during shift changes.

So far all their complaints to the port management have been rejected and the Transport Board called on Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar to put an end to the situation.

Knesset okays grants for demobilized soldiers

EVELYN GORDON

apartment, or start a business. "We aren't giving the soldiers money to tour the Far East," said Amir Peretz (Labor), chairman of the Labor and Social Affairs committee, which prepared the law.

In addition, each soldier will receive a cash grant of NIS 50 for each month served, up to a maximum of NIS 1,050 for women and

NIS 1,600 for men.

Finally, soldiers who need additional money to continue their education can apply for grants from a NIS 60m. supplementary fund. Cohen said a major purpose of the law was "recognition by the state of the soldiers' importance."

On a practical level, he added, it is meant to ensure that no soldier is financially unable to fund his education.

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ROBERT SLATER

Robert Slater, of Time Magazine, traces the steps that turned Yitzhak Rabin into one of Israel's most formidable military heroes and political leaders. It provides not only a balanced assessment of Rabin's career, but reveals, through interviews with Rabin himself, family members, and with colleagues and rivals from the army and political arena, the character of this shy, somewhat mysterious man now embarking on a peace mission. Hardcover, 486 pp. Robson Books, Revised edition 1993.

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Recommended shows for the evening: The Swedish Folkopera "Turandot", Julian Bream plays guitar, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra plays Bach, Antonio Carlos Jobim plays Bossa Nova.

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